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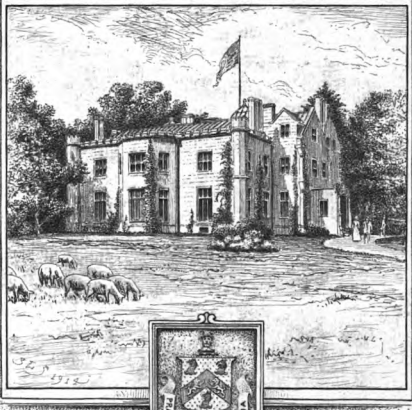

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THE

FIRST BRITISH RIFLE CORPS.

BY

CAPTAIN WILLOUGHBY VERNER,

RIFLE BRIGADE.

AUTHOR OF "SKETCHES IN THE SOUDAN," "RAPID FIELD SKETCHING AND RECONNAISSANCE," ETC. ETC.

LONDON:
W. H. ALLEN & CO., 13 WATERLOO PLACE
AND AT CALCUTTA.

1890.

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DEDICATED TO

SIR WILLIAM H. COPE, BART.

(LATE RIFLE BRIGADE),

THE HISTORIAN OF THE REGIMENT,

TO WHOSE UNRIVALLED KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CORPS I AM INDEBTED FOR MUCH OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THESE PAGES.

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PREFACE.

THE following short account of the earliest days of the Rifle Corps (as the Rifle Brigade was named on its formation) has been written in order to collect and put on record certain facts which have, through lapse of time, been too little kept in memory.

The alterations of name, by which the Rifle Brigade was known in its early existence, have been the cause of some confusion, not only in the army and among the general public, but in the minds of Riflemen themselves, and doubts have sometimes been expressed and inadequately answered as to which was the first Corps of British Riflemen.

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Fifty years ago, such a question would have been dismissed as capable of but one reply; but as time lapses, so does the memory of men fade for things which do not immediately concern themselves.

Hence it is that untenable claims have been set up which may lead some people to fancy that since the numeral 60 precedes 95, the King's Royal Rifle Corps (which had long existed as the old 60th Royal American Regiment—a corps specially formed for Colonial Service) must necessarily date its formation as a Rifle Corps from some period prior to that of the Rifle Brigade (the old 95th Rifles).

With a view to dissipate these doubts, and to clearly record the origin and status of both these distinguished Corps, the following pages have been compiled. Every fact therein stated has been carefully verified by reference to the various books, original records, and other documents and sources of information enumerated in the "List of Books and Records consulted." These may be found, with few exceptions,

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in the library of the British Museum, or at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, and are, of course, open to public inspection.

To those who may urge that it is unadvisable to raise such a discussion, it may be answered that if the statements which have appeared in print during the last few years, to the effect that the 60th is the first and original Corps of British Riflemen, be ignored or left uncontradicted, we, the representatives of the first Corps of British Riflemen should be unworthy of the position we have inherited. For it would be worse than ingratitude in us, the Riflemen of the present, to neglect, through apathy or indifference, the vindication of the birthright of the gallant men who, in a few short years from its formation, achieved for their Corps a fame which has rarely, if ever, been excelled, and made the name of "Rifleman" renowned throughout the British and Continental armies.

In memory of these, our predecessors, the following undeniable facts are recorded, which prove beyond cavil or dispute that these men, many of whom so

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freely shed their blood and laid down their lives for their country in the early part of this century, were the *first and original* British Riflemen.

WILLOUGHBY VERNER,
Captain, Rifle Brigade.

Shorncliffe, Mar. 1890.

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LIST OF BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, AND RECORDS CONSULTED.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE OFFICERS OF THE RIFLE BRIGADE, FROM 1800 TO 1850. Stooks Smith. London: 1851.

BRITISH ARMY; ITS ORIGIN, PROGRESS, AND EQUIPMENT. Sir Sibbald David Scott, Bart. London: 1868.

BRITISH ARMY; ITS REGIMENTAL RECORDS, BADGES, DEVICES, &c. Major L. H. Lawrence Archer, formerly 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps. London: 1888.

COSTUME OF THE ARMY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. Colonel Charles Hamilton Smith. London: 1815.

COURS SUR LES ARMES À FEU PORTATIVES. L. Panot. Paris: 1851.

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CELER ET AUDAX. A Sketch of the Services of the 5th Batt. 60th Regiment (Rifles). Major-General Rigaud (late 60th Rifles). London: 1879.

DES ARMES DE GUERRE RAYÉES. H. Mangeot. Brussels: 1860.

FOREIGN CORPS PAY LISTS, &c. Selections from the following:

60th Foot, 1st to 6th Battalions, 1803 to 1817.
Foreign Depôt Detachment, 5th Batt. 60th Foot, 1816.
Foreign Depôt and Invalids, 1801 to 1817.
Foreign Veteran Battalion, 1811 to 1813.
Chasseurs Britanniques, 1801.
Dutch Troops, Rifle Regiment, 1801 to 1802.
Löwenstein's Corps, 1800 to 1802.
Hompesch's Dragoons, 1798 to 1802.

HAND BOOK FOR HYTHE. Hans Busk, M.A., D.L. London: 1860.

HISTORY OF THE PENINSULAR WAR. Major-General Sir William Napier, K.C.B. London: 1867.

HISTORY OF THE RIFLE BRIGADE (the 95th). Sir William Cope, Bart. London: 1877.

MILITARY FORCES OF THE CROWN. Clode. London: 1869.

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MILITARY COSTUME OF EUROPE. Goddard. London: 1812.

MILITARY LECTURES DELIVERED TO THE OFFICERS OF THE 95TH RIFLE REGIMENT, AT SHORN-CLIFF BARRACKS. Colonel Coote Manningham. London: 1803.

MUSTER ROLLS, PAY LISTS, AND ADJUTANTS' ROLLS OF THE REGIMENTS WHICH SUPPLIED OFFICERS, N.C.O.'S AND MEN FOR THE FORMATION OF THE RIFLE CORPS. 1800 and 1801.

MUSTER ROLLS, PAY LISTS, AND ADJUTANTS' ROLLS OF THE RIFLE CORPS AND 95TH RIFLES. 1800-1806.

MUSTER ROLLS, PAY LISTS, AND ADJUTANTS' ROLLS, OF THE 60TH FOOT, 1ST TO 8TH BATTALIONS.

PICTURESQUE REPRESENTATION OF THE NAVAL, MILITARY, AND MISCELLANEOUS COSTUMES OF GREAT BRITAIN. John Augustus Atkinson. London: 1807.

REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE, 60TH ROYAL RIFLES. Lieut.-Col. N. W. Wallace, late 60th Royal Rifles. London: 1879.

REGIMENTAL RECORDS, 60TH FOOT.

REGIMENTAL RECORDS, RIFLE CORPS, 95TH FOOT AND RIFLE BRIGADE.

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Regulations for the Rifle Corps formed at Blatchington Barracks. Colonel Coote Manningham. London: 1801.

Scloppetaria, or Considerations on the Nature and Use of Rifled Barrel Guns. By a Corporal of Riflemen (Henry Beaufoy). London: 1808.

Twenty-two Years' Practice and Observations with Rifle Guns. By Ezekiel Baker, gunmaker. London: 1803.

Remarks on Rifle Guns. 10th Edition, 1829. Also by preceding.

View of the History and Actual State of the Military Force of Great Britain. Charles Dupin. Paris: 1820.

Annual Army Lists.

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Bulletins of State Intelligence.

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Journals of the House of Commons.

Parliamentary History.

Morning Chronicles.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE INTRODUCTION OF RIFLED SMALL ARMS INTO THE BRITISH ARMY.

The causes which led to the formation of the Rifle Corps at the beginning of this century may be traced to the fact that all Continental nations had for some years previously recognised the great value of rifled small arms, and had accordingly commenced to introduce them into their armies. As far back as the year 1631 the Landgrave William of Hesse had three companies of *Chasseurs* armed with rifles, and in 1645 the Elector Maximilian of Bavaria formed three regiments of *Chasseurs*, carrying rifled arms. In 1674 Frederick William of Prussia ordered that in each company of infantry there should be several *chasseurs* and *tirail-*

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leurs armed with rifles. In the same year Louis XIV. formed some squadrons armed with rifled carbines. Frederick the Great, during the Seven Years' War, in order to counterbalance the Austrian light troops, and especially the *Tirailleurs* of the Tyrol, whose fire was very deadly, "*se vit forcé de porter la compagnie de* 60 *chasseurs exercés qu'il avait, jusqu'à l'effectif d'un bataillon.*" By 1796 the Austrian Army had no less than fifteen battalions of Light Infantry, the greater number of the men of which were armed with rifled carbines.*

Whilst the value of rifled small arms had thus been recognised abroad, very little was done to provide the British Army with these weapons. It would be an injustice to our national talent if this were to be ascribed to any want of men capable of inventing or producing such weapons; the fault would seem to have lain with successive Governments and War-Ministers, who, unobservant of or indifferent to the improvement in small arms made in continental

* *Cours sur les armes à feu portatives*, pp. 38-9.

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nations, neglected to introduce any change in the time-honoured armament of the British regiments.

So far back as the year 1635 there is a record at the Patent Office of a Patent being granted for a rifle on June 24th of that year.*

In 1680 eight rifled carbines were issued to each troop of Household Cavalry.† It was, however, not till more than a century later that rifles were issued to any infantry regiment in British pay.

In 1794 it would appear that some were issued to one of the four battalions of the 60th Royal American Regiment. No precise record apparently exists of this issue; and Wallace, in his *Regimental Chronicle of the 60th*, which may reasonably be concluded to put the matter in the most precise form, simply states that in "1794, rifles first adopted in the British Service, and issued to *one* battalion of the Regiment (probably the first)."

Hans Busk, recording the same fact, states: "In

* Sibbald Scott, vol. i., p. 165.
† *Hand Book for Hythe*, by Hans Busk.

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England the rifle can hardly be said to have been fairly adopted as a military weapon until 1794, when it appears to have been first used by a battalion of the 60th, or Royal American Regiment. In 1800, rifles were placed in the hands of the 95th (British) Regiment, now known as the Rifle Brigade; the rifles then supplied weighed about 10½ lbs. each, with the sword, &c. . . ."

The fact that the original 1st Battalion of the 60th Royal Americans was disbanded in 1819 (after over fifty years' service in America and ten at the Cape) has made it more than ordinarily difficult to obtain any precise information about this tentative armament in 1794. Certain it is that it was of an experimental nature only, since the first four battalions continued to be clothed in red and to be armed with smooth-bore muskets for over twenty years subsequently, and the name of "rifleman," or the expression "rifle," was in no case ever employed in connection with them for a still longer period.

How long the battalion to which they were issued

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retained them, or whence they obtained them, are matters for speculation.

It is notorious that towards the end of the eighteenth century rifles were abundantly manufactured on the Continent of Europe, and also in America. Their value had been well exemplified in the War of Independence in 1777, and was also well known to the hunters of the West, both for sporting purposes and in their collisions with the Indians; hence it is a fair assumption that this Battalion of the Royal American Regiment, consisting of Foreigners serving continuously in America, were provided with a weapon of Foreign or American construction, in all probability the latter.

In the early part of 1798 a 5th Battalion was added to the Royal Americans, which was armed and equipped as riflemen. Nothing very definite is known about the clothing and armament of this corps on its first formation; but Wallace, in his *Regimental Chronicle*, cites a "clothing warrant" of the year 1800, which shews that it was then dressed in green.

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This is no doubt correct, as it is on record that a few years later the uniform was a green coat with red collars, cuffs, and piping, and blue trowsers, a costume almost identical with the original *Jäger* uniform of the German Riflemen serving the King of Prussia,* and hence was probably adopted as the proper uniform for the German *Jägers*, or *Chasseurs*, who composed the 5th Battalion Royal Americans.

During the last three years of the eighteenth century there were many other foreign corps serving in the regular army of Great Britain. Amongst these were Hompesch's *Chasseurs* or Light Infantry, Löwenstein's *Chasseurs*, Waldstein's *Chasseurs*, and, lastly, the "Dutch Regiment of Rifles," the greater portion of which troops were certainly armed with rifles of continental manufacture.

The 5th Battalion Royal Americans, as will be more fully related hereafter, was formed by drafting some 900 men from Hompesch's and Löwenstein's *Chas-*

* *Military Costume of Europe.*

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*seurs.** These men were turned over *en bloc* from their different corps, and in all probability brought their arms and accoutrements as *Chasseurs* with them.†

The following year the Dutch Regiment of Rifles were taken on the British Establishment, bringing their foreign rifles with them. I have found the Muster Rolls and Pay Lists of this corps for the month of December 1799, by which it appears that it was then 700 strong, and was quartered—as were so many other foreign corps—in the Isle of Wight.

It has been freely assumed and recorded in various books that the 5th Battalion Royal Americans was armed, on its formation, with the English "Baker" rifle; but this is an untenable assumption, since the Baker rifle was first made for, experimented on, and accepted as the armament of the "Experimental

* *London Gazette*, 19th September 1798.

† Löwenstein's *Chasseurs* were serving in the West Indies at the time.

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Corps of Riflemen," as the first British Rifle Corps was styled, early in the year 1800, as described in Baker's own book on the subject of rifle-guns.

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PART I.

THE RIFLE CORPS.

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PART I.—*The Rifle Corps.*

SECTION I.

THE RAISING OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CORPS OF RIFLEMEN.

IT was towards the close of the year 1799 that two British officers, with ideas apparently in advance of their time, addressed a letter to the War Secretary, in which they urged "the importance of having a regiment in the British Army armed with a rifled arm."

It will be remarked that they did so at a time when it was a matter of notoriety that there were various regiments of Foreigners in British pay which were armed with rifles, some of which were foreign subsidized troops, such as the Dutch Rifles, and others, such as the 5th Battalion of the Royal Americans,

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which was a part of a British Colonial Regiment, composed of Foreigners enlisted for service in America *only*, and who could not by law serve in Great Britain.

The officers who wrote this paper were Colonel Coote Manningham, of the 41st Foot, equerry to King George III., and Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. William Stewart, 67th Regiment, fourth son of the Earl of Galloway. And the upshot of their representations was that orders were issued by the Horse Guards, in a letter dated January 17th, 1800, for detachments to be furnished by fourteen Line Regiments to form an experimental corps of Riflemen, and to assemble at Horsham, Sussex. This circular letter stated that "the N.C.O.'s and men are not to be considered as drafted from their regiments, but merely as detached for the purpose above recited. They will continue to be borne on the strength of their regiments, and will be clothed by their respective colonels. These officers are to be considered as detached on duty from their respective regiments. . . . . Eight drummers will be required to act as bugle-horns."*

The earliest documents referring to the Rifle Corps which I have succeeded in finding are the Muster Rolls

* Circular, Horse Guards, Jan. 17, 1800.

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and Pay lists of the various Line Regiments which supplied their quota to form the Experimental Corps at Horsham in compliance with the above Horse Guards order.

The officers, N.C.O.'s and men detached on this duty are variously shewn in the column of "Remarks" of the different regiments, and they are without exception borne on the Muster Rolls of their respective corps as on detachment until they rejoin or are "discharged and transferred to the Rifle Corps." In some instances a separate Pay list is attached to the monthly Pay list, and the men settled with monthly by their captains. These Pay lists are bound up in the volumes containing the year's Muster Rolls, either at the end of each month (as in the case of the Royals and the 79th), or altogether at the end of the year (as with the 49th). The money for the payment of the Rifle detachments is entered at the end of each Regimental Pay list. Thus, in the 29th Foot Pay List for April there is entered: "Bills drawn by Lieut. Lynch on acct. of subsistence of detachment at Horsham, £105."

From a close study of all the Pay lists, it would appear that ten of the regiments sent their detachments off on Feb. 25, the remaining four on March 25.

The annexed "Account of Contingent Disbursements"

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ACCOUNT OF CONTINGENT DISBURSEMENTS PAID ON ACCOUNT OF A DETACHMENT OF THE 29TH REGIMENT OF FOOT ON THE MARCH FROM DOVER TO HORSHAM BARRACKS.

No. of Companies or Detachment.	Date of War Office Order.	Date of March.	MARCHED. From	MARCHED. To	No. of Miles.	Rate per Mile.	Amount. £	s.	d.
Detachment intended for the Rifle Corps.	1800. 20 feby.	25 feby.	Dover	Hythe	12	1s.	0	12	0
		26 ,,	Hythe	New Romney	9	,,	0	9	0
		28 ,,	New Romney	Rye	13	,,	0	13	0
		1 Mar.	Rye	Battle	15	,,	0	15	0
		3 ,,	Battle	Horsebridge	14	,,	0	14	0
		4 ,,	Horsebridge	Lewis	12	,,	0	12	0
		5 ,,	Lewis (*sic*)	Cuckfield	14	,,	0	14	0
		6 ,,	Cuckfield	Horsham	13	,,	0	13	0
					To Warrants...		0	8	0
							£5	10	0

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for the march of a detachment from Dover to join the Experimental Corps assembling at Horsham in February, 1800, is one of the earliest records of the formation of the Corps I have been able to find.

Sir William Cope, in his *History of the Rifle Brigade*, gives a "state," shewing the number of officers, N.C.O.'s, and men furnished by the different corps. When engaged in the work of tracing the men composing the various detachments, I took especial pains to note each man's name as he appeared in his monthly Pay-list as being detached to the Rifle Corps, and with the satisfactory result that I have been able to account for every one of the 26 officers and 481 N.C.O.'s and men comprised in this Return.*

With regard to the precise numbers furnished by each corps, it will be noted that the list I furnish differs slightly from Sir William Cope's. Thus, the Muster Rolls shew that the 2nd Batt. Royals supplied three serjeants and the 85th none; whereas, in the Return in question the Royals give two and the 85th one. The totals, however, as I have already said, tally exactly; and I merely mention this unimportant discrepancy to show that I have done my best to thoroughly work out the whole question of the formation of the "Experimental Corps."

* See Appendix II.

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With regard to the officers who composed the corps, Ensign John Hare of the 27th Foot and Lieut. Wills Gason of the 49th Foot rejoined their respective corps in June, and Ensign Thomas Landers, 49th, was promoted lieutenant to the 39th Foot on July 5th. Hence these three subalterns were not appointed to the Rifle Corps when it was gazetted, since they had already ceased to be attached to the "Experimental Corps." Lieut. Robert Duncan of the 21st Foot, Lieut. Niel Campbell of the 57th, and Lieut. L. H. Bennett of the 2nd Batt. 68th Regiment were appointed to fill these vacancies in the "Experimental Corps," and subsequently gazetted to the Rifle Corps.

Of all the officers who were serving with the "Experimental Corps" at the time of its development into the "Rifle Corps," two, and *two only*, were not gazetted to the latter. These were Captain Chas. MacDonnell of the 72nd and Lieut. Richard Jones of the 55th, who were in excess of the establishment, and who rejoined their Corps in November, at the same time as did the bulk of the N.C.O.'s and men.

A full list of the officers who formed the first Experimental Corps of Riflemen, and subsequently the Rifle Corps is given in Appendix I. at the end of the book.

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SECTION II.

THE ARMAMENT OF THE FIRST CORPS OF BRITISH RIFLEMEN.

A POINT which naturally excites great interest in all Riflemen is the method by which the first corps of British Riflemen was supplied with its weapons.

In the days when the Corps was raised, this question of supply of arms was by no means the simple matter it is at present.

Dupin, in describing the process, states : " Before the commencement of the present century the supply of arms to the British Troops was made in a highly irregular manner, and was productive of heavy loss and useless expense."*

* Vol. ii., p. 165, *View of the History, &c., of the Military Force of Great Britain.*—Dupin.

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"It was not until 1804 that the Government commenced the manufacture of their own small arms, under an Assistant Inspector in the Tower.* The system in force up to that date was to give contracts to large private firms of gunmakers, &c."

The following extract from the 15th Report of Military Enquiry† is of interest as shewing the number of rifles manufactured and received into the Ordnance between 1803 and 1809. The report deals with muskets, carabines, &c., but I have only reproduced that portion dealing with rifles.

Extract from 15th Report of Military Enquiry, note by Translator, p. 160, vol. ii.—Dupin.

RETURN OF ARMS FABRICATED IN ENGLAND, AND RECEIVED INTO THE MAGAZINES OF THE ORDNANCE, from the 1st April 1803, to the 31st December 1809.

	Rifles.
1803	44
1804	325
1805	1,663
1806	3,379
1807	2,702
1808	3,997
1809	986

* Clode, vol. ii., p. 232.

† Dupin, vol. ii., p. 160, note.

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In the Report of the "Select Committee of Finance" in 1817, it appears, in the "Return of Arms in Store at the end of the War," that there were no less than 14,000 rifles.*

Fortunately for the purposes of this book, I have been enabled to produce an account of the first armament of the "Experimental Corps."

In an old work by the celebrated London gunmaker, Ezekiel Baker, the following passages occur which lay down precisely how and when the rifles were obtained, and further, as far as plain English can go, prove that in the year 1803 there was no idea of the existence of any other corps of British Riflemen except the 95th Rifles.

On p. 84 he describes how "An experiment was tried at Woolwich, 4th February 1800, by order of the Honourable Board of Ordnance. In the year 1800 the principal gunmakers of England were directed by the Honourable Board of Ordnance to produce a specimen in order to procure the best rifle possible for the use of a rifle corps (95th regiment) raised by Government.

* * * * *

"There were also many rifles from America, and from various parts of the Continent produced at the same

* Dupin.

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time. These were all tried at Woolwich, when my barrel, having only one-quarter turn in the barrel, was approved by the Committee.

* * * * *

"From the information received at various periods from the different officers of the 95th rifle regiment, respecting the rifles made by me for the Government in the years 1800 and 1801. . . ."*

It will be seen from the foregoing that Ezekiel Baker himself describes how the "Baker Rifle" became the weapon of the Experimental Corps, subsequently the Rifle Corps, or 95th Rifles. It is obvious to anybody that had he previously armed any other rifle regiment (supposing such had existed) he would have made reference to the fact in his excellent book. As it is, he constantly refers to the 95th Rifles and the reports he received from them, and mentions no other corps besides, except the 10th Light Dragoons. And in a later edition of his book, Baker states: "When the 95th rifle regiment was raised by Government, which is now called the Rifle Brigades (*sic*) I supplied them with a rifle. . . . And in the year 1803, a target was fired at at 200 yards' distance by command of his present Majesty, then Prince of Wales, with a rifle barrel 22 inches in length,

* *Twenty-two Years' Practice and Observation with Rifle Guns.*

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and from its accuracy was adopted for the use of the 10th Light Dragoons." Referring to this again, he says: "The 10th regiment of hussars have had all their rifles constructed on this principle for the last 16 years."*

Referring to Baker's statement, that at the Woolwich rifle trial in Feb. 1800 "there were also many rifles from America, and from various parts of the Continent," I have chanced to come on an interesting corroboration of this fact, and also one that tends to prove that the various foreign regiments of riflemen to which I have already alluded were armed with rifles of foreign manufacture.

When searching through the accounts of the "Dutch Troops Regiment of Rifflemen" (*sic*), I found the following entry: "Expences of the Quart^r M^r Gerlach for Making of a deal case to send twoo Riffle to his S.H. the Duke of York, and for fright of 150 cartridge boxes, 9/4."† Since the time coincides with the Woolwich trial, it does not require any very vivid stretch of imagination to come to the conclusion that these "twoo Riffle" were sent to the Horse Guards for the purpose of being tested in company with "the many rifles from America and from various parts of the Continent" already alluded to.

* *Remarks on Rifle Guns*, 10th Edition, 1829, pp. 11, 37.

† Pay List, January 1800.

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SECTION III.

THE EXPEDITION TO FERROL.

THE first parade of the "Experimental Corps" at Horsham was held on April 1st, 1800. During this month and the following the corps was trained assiduously in the duties of riflemen. In the month of May it marched to the Camp of Exercise at Swinley, near Windsor Forest. Here it remained for over two months. During this time a certain number of men attached to the "Experimental Corps" appear to have been ordered to rejoin their regiments, and other men sent to replace them. Three subalterns were also replaced in this manner, possibly because they were not found suitable for riflemen's duties.

In July an Expeditionary Force, under Sir James Pulteney and Admiral Sir J. Borlase Warren, was ordered to proceed to the north coast of Spain.

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Stewart sought and obtained permission to accompany this force with three companies of the Experimental Corps, which, leaving Swinley on August 2nd, marched to Portsmouth and embarked there on August 5th.*

The constitution of the detachment of the Experimental Corps of Riflemen, which served in this Expedition, was as follows :—

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. W. Stewart.
Major Hamlet Wade.
Captain Robert Travers.
„ Thos. C. Gardner.
„ Timothy Hamilton.
Lieut. John Stewart.
„ Thos. Edmonstoune.
„ Alex. Clark.
„ Robert Duncan.
Ensign Alex. Cameron.
„ Wm. Cotter.
Lieut. and Adjutant J. A. Grant.

The detachments which made up the three companies were those from the Royals, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 79th and 92nd Regiments.†

* Ration Return, July 24 to August 2, 1800. Swinley.
† Pay Lists, October–December, 1800.

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Captain Sidney Beckwith also accompanied the Expedition as A.D.C. to Major-General Morshead.*

On August 25th, 1800, the Rifle Corps landed near Ferrol, and covered the advance, and, having seized some heights, successfully repulsed the attempts of the Spaniards to dislodge them. Stewart was dangerously wounded in this affair.

On the following morning the enemy again attacked; but were again driven off. Captain Hamilton, Lieutenant Edmonstoune, and eight men were wounded.†

The expedition subsequently re-embarked and proceeded to Cadiz and Gibraltar.

The brunt of the fighting in this affair fell upon the Riflemen, as is evidenced by the return of casualties in Sir James Pulteney's despatch, dated August 27th, which gives—"Rifle Corps: 1 lieut.-colonel, 2 captains, 1 subaltern, 8 rank and file wounded."‡ Some of these men subsequently died of their wounds.

* 95th Pay List.

† Cope, p. 3.

‡ *Morning Herald*, Monday, September 8, 1800.

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SECTION IV.

RIFLEMEN IN EGYPT.

After the landing at Ferrol, in August, the British Expedition proceeded to Cadiz with a view to attack that place; but at the last moment the attack was countermanded, and the fleet sailed for Gibraltar.

On the 24th October orders were sent out from England for the British Forces to be divided; Sir Ralph Abercromby to take command of those corps enlisted for general service, and Sir James Pulteney to take those enlisted for limited service (Europe only), and to proceed to Portugal.

As is well known, Sir Ralph Abercromby's force proceeded to Minorca, Malta, and Marmorice, where the expedition rendezvoused previous to sailing for Egypt on February 22nd, 1801.

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On arriving at Malta, in November, orders were received from the Commander-in-Chief for all officers and men of the Experimental Corps, whose regiments formed part of the Expedition, to rejoin them, and those whose corps were not with it to be attached to other corps serving with the Expedition. Under this order Captain Gardner and his detachment rejoined the 2nd Battalion Royals, which was out in the Mediterranean, Captain Hamilton rejoined the 27th, Captain Travers, Lieutenant John Stewart and Ensign William Cotter the 79th, and Lieutenants Alexr. Clark and Alexr. Cameron the 92nd.* Lieutenant Duncan, of the 21st, was attached to the 30th Regiment, since his Regiment was not with the Expedition. All these officers appear to have taken part in the conquest of Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercromby.

Captain Gardner was wounded at the battle of Mandora on 13th March 1801, as were also Lieutenant Cameron, of the 92nd, and Lieutenant Robert Duncan, of the 21st.

The detachments of the 23rd and 25th Regiments, which formed a portion of the "three companies" sent out to Ferrol and on to the Mediterranean, are

* *Vide* Regiments' Pay Lists, and Muster Rolls. Several of these officers' names appear as signing their accounts with their regiments in October.

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entered as rejoining their corps in the Mediterranean from the Rifle Corps, in December and October respectively. The former supplied no officers, whereas the latter regiment gave Hamlet Wade and Grant, and these officers evidently did go to Ferrol (since they sign their accounts with the 25th Foot in the month of October). And it is probable that they were ordered back to England to assist in organising the Rifle Corps, for Grant signs the Rifle Corps Muster Roll at Blatchington in November 1800, and Wade that of January 1801.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Houston died at Gibraltar on November 29th, 1800; he had apparently been appointed to replace Stewart, who had gone to England on account of his wounds.

I have been at particular pains to endeavour to trace the movements of these Riflemen, since it is evident that no less than nine officers and some 200 N.C.O.'s and men formed part of the Expeditionary Force in this memorable campaign.

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SECTION V.

THE FORMATION OF THE "RIFLE CORPS."

It was whilst the Experimental Corps was at Swinley Camp—in fact, very shortly after their arrival there—that the Authorities appear to have come to the decision that the "Experiment" was a success, and that it would be advantageous to adopt the proposal which had first emanated from Colonels Manningham and Stewart "to have a regiment in the British Service armed with a rifled arm." In consequence, some time in June 1800, orders were issued for recruits to be obtained from the Fencible Infantry Regiments serving in Ireland in order to form a regular Rifle Corps.

The Rebellion in Ireland having been put down, it was decided to reduce the large garrison there, and a

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considerable number of Fencibles were enlisted into the Regular Regiments about this time, all of them being Scotch or English.

I have been unable to ascertain the date of the Horse Guards' letter ordering Volunteers to be obtained from the Fencible regiments on the Irish Establishment; but it was issued at such a date as to enable it to reach the most remote parts of Ireland early in July, for on July 6th many men were paid up and attested for service in the Rifles. Thus, for example, the "Ross and Cromarty Rangers" send nine men paid up to July 6th, as shewn in their Pay List of July 24th; and I have identified all these men in the Pay List and Muster Roll of the "Rifle Corps" of August 24th, as "attested July 7th." Similarly the Dunbartonshire Infantry Fencibles stationed in the north of county Antrim send twelve men. These are all entered as "discharged for general service." With the word "Rifle" written above: a note follows: "Ten guineas each, charged and allowed in the Acct. with the Irish Government," shewing the bounty paid.

The accompanying extract from the Pay List of the Rifle Corps, for August 1800, is interesting as shewing the very strong Scotch element which existed at that time.

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PAY LIST AND MUSTER ROLLS OF DETACHMENTS OF VOLUNTEERS from Fencible Regiments in Ireland for the Formation of a Rifle Corps from 23rd to 24th August 1800.

Aberdeen Regiment	11
Angus ,,	12
Argyles ,,	12
Bredalbin (*sic*),,	12
Caithness Leagion (*sic*)	9
Clanalpin Regiment	8
Devon and Cornwall Regiment	9
Dunbarton ,,	12
Durham ,,	12
Elgin ,,	12
Essex ,,	11
Fraser ,,	11
Fifeshire ,,	9
Glengarry ,,	11
N. Lowland ,,	12
McLeods ,,	8
Manx ,,	9
Nottingham ,,	11
Northampton ,,	11
P. of Wales ,,	12
Reays ,,	10

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Ross and Cromarty Regiment	.	9
Suffolk	„ .	12
Somerset	„ .	12
Tay	„ .	11
York	„ .	12
		290

(Certified) JAS. INNES,
Pay M. Rifle Reg^t.

The means of communication in those days were not very rapid, hence these Fencibles, or rather embryo Riflemen (since they had been attested), took some weeks to be assembled and moved by sea to Portsmouth, whence they marched to Blatchington near Lewes, which place they reached on September 7th. Here they joined the detachments of the Rifle Corps which had, after the embarkation of the three companies for the Ferrol Expedition, marched to Blatchington Barracks.

Thus the original "Experimental Corps," and the newly raised volunteers for the Corps of Riflemen constituted one Corps.

Some weeks later the order was received for the detachments forming the Experimental Corps to rejoin their Corps.

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The narrative of the subsequent gradual augmentation of this Corps of Riflemen will be found under the heading of "The Muster Rolls of the Rifle Corps." The fact that one portion of the officers was serving in Egypt and the Mediterranean, and another portion at home with the companies of the original "Experimental Corps" renders the history of the regiment somewhat intricate at this period.

That the authorities themselves were in some degree confused about the matter at the time is shewn by the fact that in the *London Gazette* of October 18th, 1800, the following entries occur :—

"War Office, Dublin Castle, October 13th.—His Majesty has been pleased to make the following Promotions in the Army on this Establishment.

"Rifle Corps (now forming).

"Major George Callander, from the 62nd Foot, to be Major. Dated August 1st, 1800.

"Captain Beckwith, from the 71st Foot, to be Captain.

"Lieutenant Alex. D. Cameron, from the 21st Foot, to be Captain-Lieutenant.

"Lieutenants R. Duncan and E. B. Law, from the 21st Foot, to be Lieutenants. Dated as above."

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The words *now forming* and *date* August 1st must be especially noted, since they tend to prove that "the *Rifle Corps" was at that time considered to be in process of formation.*

The regiments to which these officers belonged were all on the Irish Establishment at this time.

Three days after this "Irish Gazette" the *London Gazette* (October 11th, 1800),* formally gazetted "A Corps of Riflemen" as follows:—

Col. Coote Manningham,	from the	41st	Foot, to be	Colonel.
Lt.-Col. the Hon. Wm. Stewart . .	„	67th	„ „	Lt.-Col.
Major George Callander	„	62nd	„ „	Major.
Captain Hamlet Wade .	„	25th	„ „	Major.

To be Captains.

Captain	Robert Travers,	from the	79th Foot.
„	Cornelius Cuyler	„	69th „
„	Thos. Christopher Gardner .	„	2nd Batt. Royals.
„	Henry Shepherd	„	49th Foot.

* Published in *Gazette* of Oct. 21st, 1800.

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Capt.-Lieut. Thos. Sidney Beckwith . from the 71st Foot.
Captain Timothy Hamilton . . . „ 27th „

Lieutenant Alex. D. Cameron from the 21st Foot to be Captain-Lieutenant.

To be Lieutenants.

Lieutenant Blois Lynch, from the 29th Foot.
„ J. A. Grant „ 25th „
„ John Stuart „ 79th „
„ Peter O'Hare „ 69th „
„ Thos. Stirling Edmonston „ 2nd Batt. Royals.
„ Robert Duncan . . „ 21st Foot
„ Alex. Clarke „ 92nd „
„ Neil Campbell „ 57th „
„ John Ross . „ 72nd „
2nd Lieutenant Edward Bedwell Law „ 21st „
Ensign Henry Powell . „ 2nd Batt. Royals.
„ William Cotter . „ 79th Foot.
„ John Cameron . „ 92nd „
„ — Douglas . „ 29th „
„ L. H. Bennet . „ 68th „

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To be Adjutant.
Lieut. J. A. Grant.

To be Quartermaster.
Sergeant-Major Donald M'Kay.

It is well to reiterate here that every one of these officers, with the single exception of Major George Callander, had served in the original "Experimental Corps" of Riflemen. All their commissions were dated August 25, and subsequent days.

A number of second lieutenants were very shortly afterwards appointed to "The Rifle Corps," as it was now officially named, and they may justly be considered as being original members of the first corps of British Riflemen officially gazetted, albeit they had not previously served in the Corps during its probationary period.

A list of them will be found in the Pay List and Muster Roll of the Rifle Regiment for November 1800, where they are all entered in the "Commandant's Company."

The detachments of the Experimental Corps at Blatchington very shortly received orders to rejoin their respective regiments. In the Marching Orders Book in the Quartermaster-General's Department,

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Horse Guards, there is a record of a Route, dated October 1st, 1800, addressed to the Officer Commanding at Blatchington, and directing the detachments of the 29th, 49th, 55th, and 85th Regiments to march to Hilsea Barracks (Portsmouth) prior to embarking to rejoin their Corps.

"The detachments of the Rifle Corps belonging to the 21st, 71st, and 72nd to march to Liverpool to join their Corps in Ireland."

These detachments all started from Blatchington on October 3rd, the Hilsea division arriving there on the 8th, and the Liverpool one on the 28th.

In the Pay Lists and Muster Rolls of the Rifle detachments, those of the 29th, 49th, 55th, and 85th are all shewn as "with the rifle corps, Hilsea," in November and December. In the case of the 29th, the detachment is thus shewn up to the end of January.

It may be remarked that the 29th, 49th, 55th, and 85th were all quartered in the Channel Islands* in 1800-1, whilst the 21st, 71st, and 72nd were all in Ireland.

The 69th Regiment, which was at Deal when the Experimental Corps was formed, sailed for the West

* Army Lists.

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Indies in July 1800, and its Rifle detachment did not rejoin it till some time in 1801.

The Royals, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 79th and 92nd Regiments were all serving in the Mediterranean.

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SECTION VI.

THE MUSTER ROLLS OF THE REGIMENTS WHOSE DETACHMENTS FORMED THE EXPERIMENTAL CORPS OF RIFLEMEN.

A PAY LIST is not a very interesting document, generally speaking, but nothing gives a clearer insight into the movements of men and any changes in their military rank. Take, for example, that of the 2nd Battalion Royals.

Capt. Thos. C. Gardner, who signs his monthly pay list for February, is shewn as "attached to the Rifle Corps" subsequently, but in December he again signs. In the interval he had been to Ferrol, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, and had rejoined his regiment (which meanwhile had moved to the Mediterranean) with twenty-three out of his thirty-two men. In this and

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succeeding months he is shewn as "of the Rifle Corps, attached to 2^{d} B^{n} Royals p^{r} G^{l} Sir Ra^{ph} Abercrombie's order." This was on account of his having been gazetted to a company in the "Rifle Corps." He served with the Royals in the Egyptian campaign, and was wounded at the Battle of Mandora on March 13th, and remained with them till August 24, 1801, after which he returned to England and rejoined the Rifle Corps.

In the same Pay lists Lieutenant Edmonstoune in August is entered as "wounded, not able to sign." (He was wounded at Ferrol.) In September he is shewn "in hospital ship No. 41," and the following month as "at Gibraltar with servant P^{te} Robertson." Private John Hanlan is noted "died of His wounds 26th August."

The 21st Foot have separate Muster rolls and Pay lists for their Rifle detachment. Lieutenant Cameron is shewn in May as "On a Rifle Det^{mt} on Bagshot Heath." Lieutenant Robert Duncan is paid up to May 30th with his Regiment, and then "sent to join the Rifle detachment." The N.C.O.'s and men of this detachment are mustered and paid with their Regiment, from October 24 to November 24, 1800, in Ireland.

The 29th Foot shews a separate Pay list for the

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Rifle Corps detachment, and that for May 1800 is marked "On the march to Bagshot Camp." The 29th were at Dover at this time, and moved to Guernsey in September. Their detachment of the Rifle Corps is shewn as at Hilsea in November and December, and rejoined them in January 1801.

The 79th Regiment Muster Rolls have attached to each monthly Pay list a neat separate roll for every month from March to November 1800. The first—and that which gives one of the earliest musters of any portion of the Rifle Corps—is headed: "Pay List and Muster Roll of the following detachment of the 79th Regiment attached to the Rifle Battalion at Horsham Barracks, from February 25th to March 24th, both days inclusive."

In June seven privates rejoin their corps, but in July it is again made up to the full strength.

In May it was in camp "on Bagshot Heath"; in June and July in "Swinley Camp." On August 2nd it marched for Portsmouth, and embarked on August 5th for Ferrol. In August, September, October, and November it is shewn "On Board ship." And in the last-named pay list there is noted in faint red ink: "Joined the Regt. 25th Novr." These pay lists are all signed, "Robt. Travers, Capt. 79th Regt."

Enough has been said, I think, to shew that with-

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out doubt the first "Experimental Corps of Riflemen" and "The Rifle Corps" were one and the same thing.

There appears to have been some misapprehension about this, owing, doubtless, to the wording of the usual accounts of the formation of the Rifle Corps. These would lead one to believe that *after* the Expedition to Ferrol the Experimental Corps was reduced, and the Corps newly formed, with the same officers, by volunteers from the Fencible Regiments.

As a matter of fact, the Pay Lists prove that between July 7th and August 15th close upon 400 men were attested for service in the Rifle Corps.

The Experimental Corps was so far reduced that the bulk of the men forming it rejoined their regiments; but the officers who served with it were appointed to the "Rifle Corps," with their commissions dated back to August 25th—the first day a British Rifleman ever fired a shot at an enemy.

A certain number of sergeants, corporals, and riflemen were also transferred from their various corps to the Rifle Corps.

The order for the N.C.O.'s and men detached to the Experimental Corps to rejoin their Regiments appears to have been carried out in a very leisurely manner, as I have already shewn. The last detachments at Hilsea

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were one by one broken up, and the officers and a small proportion of the N.C.O.'s and men sent to join their corps, or, in a few instances, returned to the Rifle Corps at Blatchington.

It would be monotonous to follow out all these changes, so I will merely give one as an example. In October 1800, the 49th Regiment was at Jersey, and the Rifle detachment at Hilsea, under Captain Shepherd, is shewn at about the normal strength, less "1 man on Expedition"; but in the following month (November 24th) the Pay list for the detachment only contains five names.

Turning to the Pay List of the Rifle Corps, we find in November that Captain Shepherd's Company has three of these men in it—a sergeant, corporal, and private—the other two being in other companies.

Other similar cases might be cited.

It will thus be seen that the "Rifle Corps" was the direct outcome and unquestionable offspring of the "Experimental Corps."

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SECTION VII.

THE MUSTER ROLLS AND PAY LISTS OF THE RIFLE CORPS.

NOTWITHSTANDING every endeavour, I have failed to discover any documents relating to "The Experimental Corps" as a Regiment, possibly because the men composing it were all borne on the books of their respective corps.

The first official record then of the Rifle Corps is a volume, at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, entitled *Pay List and Muster Roll of the* 95*th Foot*, 1800-1801. I need hardly point out to Riflemen that this is a misnomer, since the Rifle Corps was not made a numbered Regiment until the year 1803. However, it is an advantage in one way, as it enables

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this interesting volume to be readily identified, and in consequence obtained by those who wish to peruse it.

It may be as well to mention here that in the Catalogue of War Office Books at the Record Office, the Pay Lists of the 95th Foot from 1780 to 1832 are shewn. These include the rolls of some four or five regiments which were successively numbered "95th," but only those from 1800 to 1816 contain documents relating to the Rifles.

The Muster Rolls for 1800 commence with the Pay list for August of the "Rifle Regiment of Infantry stationed at Blatchington Barracks," and gives a roll of 290 volunteers from Fencible Regiments, of which details have been already given.

The following month's roll (August 25th to September 24th) is headed by the names of two of the Experimental Corps—a sergeant of the 25th as Sergeant-Major, and one of the 72nd as Quartermaster-Sergeant, and contains 4 sergeants, 10 corporals, and 276 riflemen, and is signed—

"GEO. CALLANDER,
"Major Commandg. Rifle Regt."

In October fifty more volunteers, mostly from the same Fencible regiments, are shewn as having joined

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September 30th, their dates of attestation varying from 7th July to 9th August.

The roll this month contains the names of fourteen sergeants, fifteen corporals, six buglers, and 297 men, or a total of 332 all ranks.

In the following month the Pay List and Muster Roll appears in the regular form of that of a Regiment officered and divided into ten companies.

RIFLE REGIMENT OF INFANTRY STATIONED AT BLATCHINGTON.
Pay List and Muster Roll, October 25 to November 24, 1800.

Rank and Names.	From	To	Remarks.
"Commandant's" Company.			
Colonel Coote Manningham	25 Oct.	24 Nov.	On duty at Windsor.
Lt.-Col. Alexr. Houston ...	26 Aug.	,,	On duty in Mediterranean.
Major without a company, Major Wade	,,	,,	
Capt.-Lieut. A. D. Cameron	1 Sep.	,,	(Signs.)
1st Lieut. John Stewart ...	27 Aug.	,,	On duty in Mediterranean.
Adjutant, Lieut. J. A. Grant	25 Aug.	,,	(Signs.)
Quartermr. Donald McKay	,,	,,	(Signs.)
Surgeon John Robb ...	,,	,,	
Assistant-Surg. H. Messiter	,,	,,	
Paymaster Jas. Innes ...	,,	,,	
2nd Lieut. Hy. Goode ...	10 Nov.	,,	
,, Jas. McDonald...	1 Nov.	,,	
,, Thos. Brereton ...	3 Nov.	,,	
,, Loftus Gray ..	4 Nov.	,,	
,, Jno. Jenkins ...	7 Nov.	,,	
,, Patk. Turner ...	6 Nov.	,,	
,, Saml. Mitchell...	9 Nov.	,,	
,, Geo. Elder ...	5 Nov.	,,	

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Rank and Names.	From	To	Remarks.
2nd Lieut. Jas. Prendergast	Nov.	24 Nov.	
,, Jno. Burton ...	8 Nov.	,,	
Sergt.-Major John McLean	...	...	
Qr.-Mr.-Sergt. Benj. Creswell	...	...	
Paymr.-Sergt. John Gordon	...	...	
3 Sergeants	...	...	
4 Corporals, 1 Drummer ...	...	...	
20 Private Men	...	...	
Lieut.-Colonel's Company.			
Lt.-Col. the Hon. Wm. Stewart	...	...	(Signs) Sick, Present.
Lieut. H. B. Lynch ...	25 Aug.	24 Nov.	
4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 31 Private Men	...	...	
Major's Company.			
Major George Callander ...	,,	...	(Agent from 25 Aug.)
Lieut. Peter O'Hare ...	25 Aug.	24 Nov.	
3 Sergeants, 4 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 27 Private Men	...	...	
Captain Travers' Company.			
Captain Travers	(Agent from 25 Aug.)	...	On duty Mediterranean.
Lieut. John Ross	2 Sep.	24 Nov.	(Agent), on duty Mediterranean (Dec. P. L.)
,, Alexr. Cameron ...	6 Sep.	...	
4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 25 Private Men	...	...	
Capt. Cuyler's Company.			
Capt. Cornelius Cuyler ...	25 Oct.	24 Nov.	
Lieut. Alexr. Clark ...	...	...	On duty in Mediterranean.
4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 30 Private Men	...	...	

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Rank and Names.	From	To	Remarks.
Captain Gardner's Company.			
Capt. Thos. C. Gardner ...	(Agent from 27 Aug.)	...	On duty in Mediterranean
Lieut. J. S. Edmonstoune...	29 Aug.	Agent	On duty in Mediterranean.
,, L. H. Bennett ...	8 Sep.	24 Nov.	
4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 0 Dr.	...	...	
42 Private Men	...	...	
Captain Shepherd's Company.			
Capt. Henry Shepherd ...	28 Aug.	24 Nov.	
Lieut. Chas. Douglass ...	7 Sep.	,,	
4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 27 Private Men	...	...	
Captain Beckwith's Company.			
Capt. Sidney Beckwith ...	29 Aug.	24 Nov.	On duty in Mediterranean.
Lieut. Niel Campbell ...	1 Sep.	,,	
,, William Cotter ...	5 Sep.	,,	On duty in Mediterranean.
(Charged with 79th Regiment, 5 Aug. to 4 Sept.)			
3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 18 Private Men	...	...	
Captain Hamilton's Company.			
Capt. Timothy Hamilton ...	(Agent 30 Aug.)	...	On duty in Mediterranean.
Lieut. J. A. Grant (adjutant)	25 Oct.	24 Nov.	
,, E. B. Law	3 Sep.	,,	
3 Sergeants, 3 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 25 Private Men	...	...	
Captain Stewart's Company.			
Capt. Alexr. Stewart ...	31 Aug.	24 Nov.	(86 days.)
Lieut. Robert Duncan ...	30 Aug.	,,	On duty in Mediterranean.
,, Henry Powell ...	4 Sep.	,,	Sick, absent.
4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals ...	...	...	
1 Drummer, 31 Private Men	...	...	

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The foregoing list contains—

Thirty-five sergeants, thirty-eight corporals, nine drummers, and 276 privates, or a total of 358 N.C.O.'s and men.

A separate Pay list is attached for fifty-two volunteers, joined between 14th and 24th November. Their dates of attestation vary between 7th July and 15th August; six recruits are also noted to have joined.

This pay list is signed—

"GEO. CALLANDER,
"Major Commanding."

In the next pay list (25th Nov. to 24th Dec. 1800), Lieut.-Col. Alex. Houston is shewn "On the Expedition with Sir Ralph Abercromby," and Lieut.-Col. J. Hugh McLeroth is posted to the Regiment. Major Geo. Callander signs the List again.

In the Ration return of December 29th, the number of N.C.O.'s and men supplied is shown to be 435.

The Pay List, 25th December to 24th January 1801 shews the following entries: "Lieut.-Col. A. Houston deceased, and Lieut.-Col. J. Hugh McLeroth posted in his place. It is signed by Hamlet Wade as "Major Commanding."

Six men are noted as discharged from the 71st Foot, and transferred to the Rifle Corps. These were some

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of the "Experimental Corps." In February, recruiting parties under lieutenants are shewn to be detached to Manchester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Bath, Berwick, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

Captain Sidney Beckwith, Lieutenants Grant and Campbell, and 2nd Lieutenant Prendergast, with five sergeants, two buglers, and 102 riflemen, are noted "on secret service." This was no less than the Expedition to Copenhagen, in which they took part under the command of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. W. Stewart.

Fifteen recruits receive a bounty of ten guineas apiece, and two men of the 92nd Regiment are transferred to the Rifle corps. On referring to the Pay Lists of the 92nd, I found that these men were two of the original "Experimental corps" who had thus got back again.

Three men of the 21st Foot,* also belonging to the Experimental Corps, are transferred to Rifle Corps.

In March, 50 volunteers receive a Bounty of five guineas apiece; most of them are from Fencible Regiments.

In April, Lieut.-Col. Stewart is noted "with Sir H. Parker," and the officers hitherto shewn as "on duty

* John Marron, 92nd; Wm. Booth, 92nd; John Forbes, 21st; David Gamble, 21st; John Gavan, 21st.

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in the Mediterranean" are now noted "with Sir Ralph Abercrombie"—Col. McLeroth is one of these—making nine officers with the Force in Egypt, and five with the Danish Expedition.

Lieut. J. A. Grant is noted as "killed, 2nd April." This officer was decapitated by a round shot "whilst gallantly fighting the quarter-deck guns on board the *Isis*" in the attack on Copenhagen.*

In the following month Lieut.-Col. McLeroth and Captain Travers are shewn "returned from Egypt, and ordered to rejoin"; Lieut. Alex. Clark as "ordered to join the 92nd Foot," the remaining six as "with the Army in Egypt"; 14 recruits join.

This pay list is interesting as bearing the signature of "Coote Manningham, Colonel." This is the first time he appears to have been with his corps. Peter O'Hare signs as Adjutant.

In June, Capt. Beckwith's Company is noted: "This Company is on board Lord V. Nelson's Fleet"; Lieut. John Cameron as "sick in Scotland"; whilst Assistant-Surgeon George Powis' name appears for first time, and is marked "Egypt." It is signed by H. McLeroth, Lieut.-Col., Rifle Regiment.

* Cumloden Papers.

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In July, Lieut. Cotter is "on his way to join from the Army in Egypt," thus reducing the number of Rifle Corps officers still employed there to four.

The August Pay List is signed by Lieut.-Col. William Stewart as commanding officer.

There is nothing of further interest up to the end of the year 1801. Ensign Cotter rejoins on 8th December, leaving four officers including the Assistant-Surgeon, still in Egypt.

The strength of the Rifle Corps on 24th December 1801 was as follows: 40 sergeants, 40 corporals, 17 drummers, 442 private men, or a total of 539 N.C.O.'s and men.

During the early summer of this year, the Corps marched to Weymouth, returning to Blatchington in the autumn.

The Pay lists of 1802 commence with the following notes on the officers who had been with Sir Ralph Abercromby:—

Capt. T. C. Gardner, "sick."

Lieut. John Stewart, "sick," returned from Egypt.

Lieut. Robert Duncan and Assistant-Surgeon Geo. Rowe still "with the army in Egypt."

Henry Messister, Assistant-Surgeon, signs.

Contingent allowance is drawn for 846 rifles.

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On Feb. 24th, Lieut. Duncan is shewn "In quarantine off Portsmouth." With his return to England the record of services of the Rifle Corps in Egypt closes.

Captain Niel Campbell is noted as being at the Military Academy, High Wycombe, where he is joined in the following month by Captain John Stewart.

In August the regiment moved from Blatchington to Chatham. It had previously been increased from eight to ten companies, by the re-introduction of Field officers' companies.

From Chatham it moved to Shorncliffe, and on Nov. 4th, by Major-General Moore's order, a company marched to Dungeness.

It was at this time that a descent upon our southern shores by the French was expected, and the Riflemen were entrusted with the guarding of the dreary stretch of shingle from Shorncliffe to the Ness; this with five companies, the other five being sent to Blatchington.

During the year 1802, 187 recruits (including transfers from Line regiments) joined.

The strength of the Rifle Corps as shewn by the Pay List of Dec. 24th, 1802, was as follows:

Sergeants.	Corporals.	Buglers.	Riflemen.
32	42	20	598

On December 25th it was ordered to be placed

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amongst the numbered corps, and allotted the numeral "95," under which it became so well known during the campaigns of the early part of this century.

But although the numeral "95" was thus given to the Regiment, it continued to be styled the Rifle Corps both in the Service and in official documents.

As an example of this, in the London Gazette of 25th January 1803, the following occurs:

"95th Regiment, or Rifle Corps.—Major Sidney Beckwith to be Lieut.-Col."

The Pay lists for 1803 are all marked 95th, or Rifle Regiment of Infantry.

Attached to the Pay list of the month of April is a Muster Roll and Pay list of Detachment 95th Rifle Regiment doing duty at Dungeness, from 25th March to 24th April, consisting of 1 sergeant, 5 corporals, 1 bugler, and 68 private men under Captain Alex. D. Cameron.

In May, Captain A. G. Norcott and 74 rank and file relieve this company.

By district route of May 20th, five companies are ordered to march from Shorncliffe to Blatchington. This they do in two parties; No. 1 Division marching to Lydd on first day, and thence to Rye, Hastings, and Eastbourne, reaching their destination on the fifth day; the second division following a day later.

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The remaining four companies were at the same time moved to Forts Sutherland and Moncrieff along the coast by Hythe.

On June 29th these four companies and Captain Norcott's at Dungeness are withdrawn to Shorncliffe again, and a month later they march to Chatham, the five companies at Blatchington marching about the same time to Gravesend. Here the Regiment embarks, and crosses over to Essex.

There is nothing of especial interest to note in this year's record beyond the fact that Sergeants of the Rifle Corps are shewn in August and September as "Drilling a Rifle Company of the Sussex Militia at Brighton"; "Drilling volunteers at Sheffield, a place near Uckfield"; also "Drilling volunteers in London" and "at Dorking."

Camp Equipage and Pack Saddles were issued to the Corps in August as shewn by vouchers for the carriage paid for the same from London to Blatchington.

Some of the foregoing details are undoubtedly of no very great interest, and I have merely given them to shew with what precision every move of the Battalion can be traced by referring to the Muster Rolls and Pay lists.

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SECTION VIII.

THE UNIFORM OF THE RIFLE CORPS.

Upon the gazetting of the Regiment in August 1800 it was clothed in dark green regimentals, with black facings. The first clothing warrant for the Corps dates from August 25, 1800, and is entitled—

"Warrant for Passing and Allowing an Assignment of Clothing of a Regt. of Rifle Men, under the Command of Colonel Coote Manningham, from the 25th August, 1800, to the 24th Decr., 1801, inclusive."

This Warrant authorizes the Clothing Board "to allow Colonel Coote Manningham clothing for a Regiment of Riflemen of ten Companies." *

It is especially interesting, as it shews clearly that

* Miscellany Book, War Office.

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the first Experimental Corps of Riflemen was *identical* with the Rifle Corps of 1801-2, since the same Clothing Warrant provides for both of them. The men who rejoined their corps in November and December 1800 were, of course, as the original orders state, "clothed by their own Colonels," and only those who were finally transferred to the Rifle Corps donned the green of the Rifleman. For Riflemen it has the additional interest, as being conclusive evidence, that from the first day when the Corps was officially gazetted, it was clothed in the green jacket.

The figure in the frontispiece is taken from *The Military Costume of Europe*, published in 1812, which gives a very good account of the raising of the Rifle Corps in 1800, and of its dress in the year 1812, of which the following is an extract:—*

"On August 25th, by a letter of service to Colonel Manningham, a Corps to be termed the Rifle Corps was formed, and an order was intrusted to that officer to *complete* the same by Volunteers from the Fencible Regiments of Infantry, then serving in Ireland. . . . The utility of the peculiar arm which is intrusted to the Rifle regiment has been acknowledged by friends and foes; the animated as well as the instructive

* 140 g. 21, King's Library, British Museum.

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nature of its duties in the field has been proved, and the Services of the Corps have been uniformly distinguished from the first embarkation of a British Rifleman to the present day.

"The 95th Regiment is the only Corps of British Riflemen.

"The whole of the arms are rifled, and a short Roman sword is worn and fixed as a Bayonet. The whole of the Accoutrements are of Black Leather.

"The Colour of the Dress is dark bottle-green. Pantaloons or loose Trowsers are worn, and of the same cloth as the Jacket."

The Badge of the 95th Rifle Corps at this period is shewn on the cover of this volume.

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SECTION IX.

COLONEL MANNINGHAM'S LECTURES TO THE 95TH RIFLE CORPS.

It was during the spring of the year 1803, while the Rifle Corps was at Shorncliffe, that it was further instructed in all the exercises and duties of Riflemen by Coote Manningham, whose active share in this task is evidenced by a little book still extant, named, *Military Lectures Delivered to the Officers of the 95th (Rifle) Regiment at Shorn-cliff Barracks, Kent, during the Spring of* 1803, published in London in 1803. In these lectures all the duties of a Rifleman, officer, N.C.O., or private are clearly laid down under all of the most important eventualities of active service.

The opening words of the first chapter well exemplify the spirit in which the whole book was written.

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"Light troops are, as it were, a light or beacon for the general, which should constantly inform him of the situation, the movements, and the nature of the enemy's designs. It is upon the exactness and intelligence of what they report that he is enabled to regulate the time and manner of executing his own enterprises."

That Manningham was a man in advance of his times is shewn in many ways, of which the following is an example. When discussing the duties of Riflemen engaged in patrolling or reconnoitring by night, he says: ". . . if it is necessary for the officer to *have recourse to his watch or compass,* he must strike a light for this purpose under his coat."

With a spirit almost prophetic he discusses the duties which would inevitably fall to "the Rifle Corps," whenever the time should come for it to be engaged with the enemy.

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SECTION X.

THE RAISING OF THE SECOND AND THIRD BATTALIONS 95TH RIFLE CORPS.

It is upon record that Lord Nelson was very favourably impressed with the value of the new arm which Stewart's detachment of the Rifle Corps used with such effect at the Battle of Copenhagen. From this time onward he appears to have entertained a strong friendship for Col. Stewart, and wrote to him constantly. Many of these letters have fortunately been preserved in the "Cumloden Papers."

Although not strictly bearing upon the subject with which this book deals, I cannot refrain from here producing an extract from a letter to his old friend, written by the hero of Trafalgar within a fortnight of his death at the hands of one of the very "marksmen" whose value he so justly appreciated.

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In this letter,* dated *Victory*, October 8th, 1805, the following passage occurs :—

"I have 36 sail of the Line looking me in the face. Unfortunately, there is a strip of land (Cadiz) between us; but it is believed that they will come to sea in a few days. The sooner the better. I don't like to have these things upon my mind. And if I see my way through the fiery ordeal, I shall go home and rest for the winter, and shall rejoice to take you by the hand. Good Captain Hardy is still with me . . . and believe me ever, my dear Stewart, your most sincere and faithful friend,

"NELSON & BRONTE."

In an earlier letter† of Lord Nelson's, written about six months after the Battle of Copenhagen, and dated "*Amazon*, Downs, 10th October 1801," the following eminently characteristic passage occurs :—

". . . I dislike all these childish rejoicings for peace. It is a good thing, I hope; but I would burst before I would let a damned rascal of a Frenchman know that either peace or war affected me with either

* *Cumloden Papers*, XIV., Lord Nelson to Col. Stewart.
† *Cumloden Papers*, XII., Lord Nelson to Col. Stewart.

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joy or sorrow. . . . I hope the Government will encrease your Rifle Corps. Although it is peace, we must always be on our guard against Corsican treachery ingrafted upon French infamy. Damn them all! is the constant prayer of, my dear Stewart, your most obliged and affectionate friend,

"NELSON & BRONTE.

"Honble. Coll. Stewart."

Nelson's wish with regard to the "encrease" of the Rifle Corps was fulfilled a few years later by the addition of a 2nd Battalion to the 95th Rifles. This Battalion was formed by the transfer of 21 sergeants, 20 corporals, 7 buglers, and 250 Riflemen from the original Corps,* which also supplied 1 major, 6 captains, and 3 first lieutenants, and an adjutant. The command was given to Hamlet Wade, who was promoted to a lieut.-colonelcy.

Four years later, in May, 1809, a third Battalion was raised by the transfer of about eleven hundred men from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, which, at this time, had a strength of over 1,500 each.

This abnormal strength was due to volunteers being taken from the militia; and such was the popularity of the Rifles, that, in a few days, over a thousand

* Cope, p. 20.

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recruits were thus obtained. Three Battalions of about a thousand men were thus formed.*

The three Battalions served throughout the Peninsular Campaign and at the Battle of Waterloo.

It would be beyond the scope of this book to enter into any detailed description of the war-services of the 95th Rifles, which are most amply given in Sir William Cope's admirable *History of the Rifle Brigade.*

All the world is familiar with the names of the great battles and sieges of the Peninsula, in nearly all of which the Rifles took a distinguished part. But besides these, there were numerous fights, some of unprecedented obstinacy, and which, although not to be found amongst the roll of honours of the British Army, were none the less successfully fought and gallantly won.

Thus, between 1808 and 1814, the Rifles fought in over fifty so-called minor actions, the very names of which, with a few exceptions, are forgotten, and of which the chief record is the list of casualties incurred.

It was doubtless owing to the fact that they were the only Regiment of British Riflemen at the time that they thus had the high honour of being oftener

* Cope, p. 42.

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engaged than any other Corps, many of the outpost affairs and minor actions being carried through by them in their capacity as the Riflemen of the famous Light Division.

Foremost among these minor fights will ever be the celebrated Combat of the Coa, where the Light Division alone stoutly opposed the onslaught of the French Army under Ney. The Rifles on this day lost 12 officers and 66 men.*

Another sanguinary fight was in the Pass of Vera, where 3 officers and 31 riflemen were killed, and 6 officers and 161 men were wounded.†

The fight, however, which will always be recalled with pride by Riflemen, is the action of Tarbes, fought on March 20th, 1814, where sixteen companies belonging to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalions, unaided, drove a French Division from an exceptionally strong position, with a loss to themselves of 12 officers and 81 men killed and wounded.‡

This has ever been regarded as the "Regimental Fight" of the Corps.

Sir William Cope, in an Appendix, gives the list of

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* Cope, p. 51.
† *Ibid.*, p. 151.
‡ *Ibid.*, p. 168.

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Actions and Casualties so far as reported, the names of which alone occupy four pages.

From this it will be seen that the recorded losses of the three Battalions during the Peninsular War and at Waterloo amounted to no less than 41 officers and 551 riflemen killed in action, and 189 officers and 2,026 riflemen wounded. In many cases the returns were incomplete.

It must ever be borne in mind, when reckoning up the losses of the Rifles, that their battalions in the Peninsula and at Waterloo as a rule consisted of only six companies or less, whereas the ordinary battalions of the line consisted of ten companies.

At the commencement of the war in Spain the 1st battalion had ten companies; but after losing some 300 men it was reduced to eight companies.

After the heavy losses at the assaults and capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, and Badajoz, the 1st and 2nd Battalions were further reduced to six companies each, and the 3rd Battalion had only five companies in Spain.

The remainder of the Campaign was carried through by these seventeen companies of Riflemen.

At Waterloo only fourteen companies were present, five being at New Orleans.

This difficulty of keeping up the Corps to its

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strength was not for want of plenty of recruits, and was due solely to the exceptional severity of the losses during the innumerable actions, which caused a constant drain on the strength of all the battalions.

So much for the losses in action; what the casualties were, owing to the inevitable privations and sickness during nearly ten years almost incessant campaigning in North and South America, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Portugal, France, and Belgium, can be best conceived by those whose knowledge of warfare enables them to justly estimate the terrible death-roll due to disease in comparison with that of the field of battle.

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SECTION XI.

TAKING THE 95TH RIFLE CORPS OUT OF THE LINE.

In the year 1816, the 95th Rifle Corps was taken out of the Line and named "the Rifle Brigade."

This was long previous to the general reduction of the Army on the final withdrawal of the Army of Occupation from France after the great war, when all the ordinary Line Regiments beyond the 93rd were disbanded* at the close of the year 1818.

In the *London Gazette*† of Saturday, March 2nd, 1816, the following announcement appears:—

"War Office,

"February 23rd, 1816.

"The Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, has been pleased to direct that the

* *Monthly Army List*, Dec. 1818.

† *Gazettes*, 1816, Part I., p. 405.

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95th Regt. shall in future be styled the Rifle Brigade, and that it shall be taken out of the numbered Regiments of the Line.

"The number of the following corps shall be accordingly altered, viz. :—

"The 96th Regt. to be numbered the 95th, the 97th to be numbered 96th, the 98th to be the 97th, the 99th the 98th, the 100th the 99th, and the 102nd the 100th."

This distinction, conferred nearly three years before the army was reduced, is one that all Riflemen are justly proud of, as marking the appreciation with which the services of the Corps during the protracted struggle in the Peninsula and at Waterloo (where portions of all three battalions played an important part) were regarded by their Sovereign and the Nation, and by the greatest of British Commanders, under whom they had so long and so often served, the Duke of Wellington, afterwards their Colonel-in-Chief.

In the various journals and periodicals published in 1816, this honourable distinction granted to the Rifle Corps is noticed, as also in the *Military Register* and others.*

* *Morning Chronicle*, Feb. 25, 1816. *Military Register*, 1816, vol. v., pp. 230 and 292.

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But this taking of the 95th Rifles out of the Line was not the last occasion upon which the reigning Sovereign was pleased to shew the appreciation with which the Corps was regarded, as the following will shew:—

By order, dated Horse Guards, January 22nd, 1862, it was intimated that, "The Queen, desiring to perpetuate the remembrance of her beloved Husband's connection with the Rifle Brigade, and feeling sure that it will be gratifying to the Corps to have the name of one who, as its Colonel-in-Chief, took such a deep and constant interest in its welfare, has been pleased to command that it should in future bear the designation of 'The Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade.'"

This was subsequently amended to the present designation—The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

Having thus traced the changes in title and status of the Corps, I shall turn to those of the other rifle regiment.

All the narrative of the services of the Rifle Brigade from the time of its first formation has been minutely

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and laboriously traced and recorded by Sir William Cope; and in endeavouring, as I have, to supplement his book, my sole object has been to place upon record certain points which he gave less prominence to than I venture to think he would had he imagined that the accuracy of them would ever be called in question.

Sir William Cope joined the Regiment only thirty-four years after its formation, at which time many men who had been members of the Corps in its early years were living, and in some cases were still actually serving in it; and consequently at a time, as he has himself assured me, when nobody ventured to suggest the prior existence of any other British Rifle Corps to that of the Rifle Brigade.

True enough, the 60th was at this time a Rifle Regiment; but it was only a decade since it had dropped its ancient title of the 60th Royal American Regiment, and had been made into a British corps,* and less than five years since its 2nd Battalion had been brought to serve in England after an almost uninterrupted spell of Colonial service since its formation.

* *Regimental Chronicle* 60*th.*

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PART II.

THE 60TH (OR ROYAL AMERICAN) REGT.

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PART II.

The 60TH (or Royal American) Regt.

SECTION I.

THE RAISING OF THE SIXTIETH (OR ROYAL AMERICAN) REGIMENT.

THIS Regiment was raised in 1756 under authority of an Act of Parliament, entitled 29th Geo. II. c. 5, as a four-battalion regiment of Foreigners for service in America. It was dressed in red, and armed and equipped as an ordinary regiment of the Line.

In 1798 a fifth Battalion was added to it under authority of an Act of the 38th Geo. III. c. 13, under precisely similar conditions to the first four battalions, except that it was dressed in green, and armed and equipped as Riflemen. A sixth and seventh Battalions were subsequently added under authority of a

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further Act of Parliament, viz. 39th Geo. III. c. 104.

In 1813 an Act of the 54th Geo. III. c. 12 was passed, to add three more battalions, and at the same time the restrictions which had heretofore been imposed by the successive Acts of Parliament, whereby the services of the Regiment were limited to America, were modified, and the Battalions, permitted "to serve in any country or place *out of* Great Britain."

During this long interval—1756 to 1813—the battalions, with one exception, served almost continuously in America, and had a very large Foreign element. Some confusion has arisen from the fact that on several occasions battalions are shewn as having been stationed in England in the *Regimental Chronicle*,* but on investigation, these instances of battalions apparently serving at home, when such a proceeding was contrary to the law of the land, can be easily understood.

For example, in 1775, the 3rd Battalion, and in 1776, the 4th Battalion, are shewn as being in England.† This was whilst they were being raised (the original 3rd and 4th Battalions having been disbanded

* *Regimental Chronicle* 60*th*.
† *Ibid.*, pp. 93-4.

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in America in 1763-4), but as soon as they were completed they were sent off at once to America.

These battalions were again disbanded in 1783 in America, and again raised in 1787-8 at Chatham, and sent out to America, upon which occasion they are similarly shewn as being quartered in England.*

The next instance is more interesting, and is that of the *cadre* of the 3rd Battalion being brought home in 1793,† and stationed in Guernsey. I shall, later on, deal with the fact of the Channel Islands being selected as the place for quartering the battalion, and at present confine my remarks to the fact of its being brought home at all, when it was supposed to be raised for service in America.

The Muster Rolls once again shed light upon this proceeding, and in that of the 3rd Battalion 60th Regiment for "182 days from 25th December 1792 to 24th June 1793," the following entry is made :—

"Mustered present, 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 2 ensigns, the Surgeon, 5 sergeants, 8 captains, 3 drummers, and 6 effective privates, allowing the Colonel, 3 captains, 3 lieutenants, 1 ensign, the chaplain, the Quarter Master, 7 sergeants, 6 corporals, 8

* *Regimental Chronicle 60th*, pp. 112–13.
† Wallace, pp. 121, 123–5.

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drummers, and 33 private Men that are absent to pass unrespited, being certified in the roll. (Dated) Guernsey, 3rd Decr. 1794." *

It is hardly necessary to say that the presence of this *cadre* of the 3rd Battalion in the Channel Islands during a portion of the years 1793-4 can, in no sense, be taken as establishing the fact that the battalion was quartered at home during those years. The Foreign element seems to have been almost entirely absent amongst the few men who thus served at this time.

Two years later, in 1797, the 1st battalion was brought to Guernsey † under very similar circumstances.

Attached to the skeleton muster rolls of this battalion is a document labelled "the Chatham roll of recruits," containing about 460 names, nearly all English.

Omitting the case of the 5th Battalion, of which hereafter, the next instances of Battalions of the 60th being recorded as serving in England are the 4th Battalion in 1805, and the 2nd and 3rd battalions in the following year.

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* Muster Roll, 60th Foot, 3rd Batt.

† Wallace, pp. 127–29.

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Before dealing with these, it is right to mention that an Act* was passed in 1804, whereby Foreign troops were permitted to be quartered in England during the continuance of the war, to a number not exceeding 10,000; and in 1806 this number was increased to 16,000 by another Act of Parliament,† and an Act of Indemnity passed at the same time to protect "those who shall have advised His Majesty to land Foreigners in the United Kingdom."

It would be beyond the scope of this work to trace the career of all these three battalions, so I will simply narrate the circumstances under which the 4th Battalion 60th Royal American Regiment was quartered in England in the year 1805.

The Muster rolls for this battalion are, very conveniently for our purpose, comprised in one volume for the years 1805 to 1808.‡

In the first part of 1805 the battalion is shewn at a fair strength, viz. about 600, and is quartered in Jamaica.

In the April roll all the Foreigners are shewn as drafted into other battalions, thus "to 7th Cy. 1 B"

* 44 Geo. III. c. 75.

† 46 Geo. III. c. 23.

‡ Muster Roll and Pay List 60th Foot, 4th Battalion, 1805–8.

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leaving the battalion a mere *cadre*, which embarks in July, and reaches Lymington in October, its total strength then being—

3 staff sergeants, 31 sergeants, and 15 drummers.

The muster rolls are signed by a captain as "commanding the battalion."

In February a few men are shewn as transferred from the Foreign Depôt (the name of the depôt of the 60th at this time), and in March the battalion embarks for the Cape "in the *Polly* transport," with a strength of only 48 rank and file.

During 1807 the battalion was quartered at Cape Town, and was gradually brought up to a strength of about 500 rank and file, all Foreigners, judging from their names.

From January to March 1808 it was shewn "at sea," and in April 1808 at "Monks Hill, Antigua."

It will be thus seen that the recorded service in England in 1805-6 is merely that of a few N.C.O.'s and drummers, in fact the *cadre* of a battalion.

Enough has been said to shew conclusively that none of the battalions of the 60th were ever quartered in England in the ordinary acceptance of the term, except after special authority had been obtained from Parliament for a certain number of Foreigners to be permitted to serve in the United Kingdom.

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In 1816, the red coat with blue facings which had been the uniform of the regiment for 60 years, was replaced by a green coat, but with the exception of the 5th Battalion the armament continued to be smooth-bore muskets.

The Depôt of the 60th was in the Isle of Wight for many years, as has been already stated, and was styled the "Foreign Depôt for Recruits and Invalids."

In the Foreign Depôt Pay list for 1802, the following entries occur which shed considerable light on the status of the Corps at this period.

In March, many men are noted as "sent to the 4th and 6th Battn.," and a few "sent to the 1st Battn."

In May, hundreds of new names appear on the roll with "from 60th Regt." or "from Prison Ship" entered against them. The former were time-expired men from the Regiment in America and the West Indies; the latter, in all probability, prisoners of war who had volunteered to serve in some of the Foreign corps at that time in our pay.

In October, many men are shown as joining "from the 1st Battn., paid by the regt. up to 24th Sept., arrived same day," and others "from the 4th Battn."

This is the last monthly Pay list showing the Foreign Depôt in the Isle of Wight—that of November 1802 and later are marked "Foreign Depôt,

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Lymington," and contain entries respecting many other Corps of Foreigners.

In the last Pay list of the "Foreign Depôt and Invalids," which I have been able to find—viz. 1817—there are many entries against the men's names shewing how numerous were the regiments of Foreigners then in our pay. For example—in one Pay list men are noted as belonging to

Watteville's Regt.
3rd Battn. 60th Foot.
Royal Corsican Rangers.
1st Battn. 60th Foot.
7th Batt. 60th Foot.
Loyal Emigrants, &c. &c. &c.

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SECTION II.

THE HISTORY OF THE 5TH BATTALION 60TH (OR ROYAL AMERICAN) REGIMENT.

SINCE a considerable amount of attention has been directed to the 5th Battalion of the 60th, a sketch of its first formation and organization is annexed, which will show clearly the absolutely foreign elements of which it was composed during the 20 years of its existence.

The information respecting this and the other battalions has been largely taken from the War Office Books and documents in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, where they are scheduled under the heading of 60th Foot amongst the "Numbered Corps," and also under "Foreign Corps Pay Lists and Muster Rolls."

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As has been stated, the Depôt of the Regiment was at first in the Isle of Wight, and was styled the Foreign Depôt. It was subsequently at Lymington.

The 5th Battalion had its Depôt at Harwich immediately prior to its being broken up, as is shown by the Pay lists and Muster Rolls of the "Foreign Depôt Detachment of the 5th Battalion 60th Foot from March to September 1816."

The popular belief that the 5th Battalion was partly raised by a draft from "Hompesch's Mounted Riflemen" does not appear to be borne out by the Muster Rolls of the Corps concerned, nor by the *London Gazettes* of those days.

The question is not one of any great importance, but may be of interest to some of those who chance to read this, hence I shall give the information I have collected on the subject.

Prior to 1798, there was a Corps known as Hompesch's *Chasseurs* or Hompesch's Light Infantry. There were also two other corps intimately connected by name with the 60th Royal Americans, viz. Löwenstein's Fusiliers and Löwenstein's *Chasseurs.* The *London Gazettes* for 1798 abound with appointments of officers from all these corps to the 60th, also from the "Royal Foreigners."

On Jan. 23rd, 1798, Lt.-Col. Francis, Baron de

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Rottenburg, together with four others, all from Hompesch's Light Infantry, were gazetted to the 60th, dated 30th Dec. 1797.

On April 17th, 1798, 12 more officers were gazetted to the 60th from Hompesch's *Chasseurs*.

On referring to the Muster Rolls of the 5th Battn. 60th, all these officers' names appear in them in 1798, shewing they were posted to that battalion.

On April 21st, 1798, 36 more officers were gazetted to the 60th from Löwenstein's *Chasseurs*, and all posted to the 5th Battn.

On June 29th, 1798, a new Corps was gazetted, styled,

"A Regiment of Mounted Riflemen."

"Baron Ferd. Hompesch to be colonel." Seven captains and 6 subalterns were appointed at the same time.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Regiment of Foreigners which supplied de Rottenburg and 16 officers was styled indiscriminately Hompesch's *Chasseurs* and Hompesch's Light Infantry. No mention however was made of Mounted Riflemen being gazetted to the 60th.

On the other hand it will be remarked that whereas all the officers from Hompesch's and Löwenstein's *Chasseurs* were gazetted to the 60th in January and

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April 1798, Baron Ferdinand Hompesch's "Regiment of Mounted Riflemen" was not gazetted till June 29th, 1798.

I have been at especial pains to see whether any of the officers of "Hompesch's Mounted Riflemen" were subsequently gazetted to the 60th, and have failed to trace any; and the Pay lists shew that no men were transferred from it.

The Muster Rolls of the 5th Battalion 60th shew that in February 1798, 300 of Hompesch's *Chasseurs* had been just drafted into the corps, and, as I shall show later on, 600 of Löwenstein's *Chasseurs* were likewise drafted into the same Battalion.

Hence, the facts of the case would appear to be, that the 5th Battalion 60th had nothing whatever to do with Hompesch's Mounted Riflemen, which corps was gazetted several months later than it, although *both* were curiously enough antedated to the 30th Dec. 1797.

The Muster Rolls and Pay lists of a Corps styled "Hompesch's Dragoons," for the years 1798 to 1802 are in the Record Office, and this I have but little doubt is Hompesch's Regiment of Mounted Riflemen formed in 1798.

The formation of the 5th Battalion of the 60th Royal American Regt. under the authority of the

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38 George III. c. 13, dated 30th December 1797, was proceeded with in the spring of 1798, in the Isle of Wight.

The first Gazette referring to the Battalion is that of January 23rd, 1798, which contains the following announcement.

60TH FOOT.

To be Lieut.-Colonels.

Lieut.-Col. Francis Baron de Rottenburg, from Hompesch's Light Infantry.

Lieut.-Col. Henry Couper, from the Royal Foreigners.

To be Major.

Major Geo. Lewis de Virna, from Hompesch's Light Infantry.

To be Captain.

Captain Lambert Lewis de Weise, from Hompesch's Light Infantry.

To be Lieutenants.

Lieut. William Lewis de Virna, from Hompesch's Light Infantry.

Lieut. George Fred. de Virna, from Hompesch's Light Infantry.

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Three months later in the *Gazette* of April 17th, 1798, the following further appointments were made.

War Office, April 17th, 1798.

To be Captains.

60TH FOOT.

Captain Ferd. Ernest de Gerardy, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Captain Ladislaus de Villers Masburgh, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Captain Antony Auguste, Baron d'Erp, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Captain Lewis Schneider, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

To be Lieutenants.

Lieut. Lewis, Baron de Nesselrode Hugenpoet.

Lieut. John Antony Wolff, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Lieut. Peter Frederic Blassore, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Lieut. Frederic William B. de Gilse, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Lieut. — Röder, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs.*

Lieut. Adolphus Münsthal, from Löwenstein's Fusileers.

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To be Ensigns.

Ensign M. Ford Henckel, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs*.

Ensign Charles William Henry Koch, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs*.

Ensign George Henry Zühlke, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs*.

Ensign George Philip Schneider, from Hompesch's *Chasseurs*.

All these commissions were antedated to 30th Dec. 1797.

The first Pay list of the Corps is from its date of assembly on February 25th, 1798.

This shows the Battalion evidently at its earliest formation divided into four companies, three consisting of 5 sergeants, 5 corpls., 2 drummers and 100 private men; and the fourth, a *cadre* of only 3 sergts., 2 corporals, and no men.

Gersardy, D'Erp, and Schneider command the first three, and de Weise the *cadre* of the fourth.

The three hundred men in this first pay list had been drafted *en bloc* from Hompesch's *Chasseurs* as had all the officers with the exception of three. This Pay list is signed "de Rottenburg, Colonel," and dated Newport, 24th March 1798. A certain number of N.C.O.'s and men are shewn as "recruiting in Germany."

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Four days after the *Gazette* of April 17th, the remaining officers were all gazetted to the Battalion as follows. This batch were likewise taken *en bloc* from a Foreign Regiment named Löwenstein's *Chasseurs*, at that time serving in the West Indies, which was disbanded, and the men composing it, to the number of some six hundred, enrolled in the 60th Royal American Regiment. This took place in the Island of Martinique.

War Office, London, April 21st, 1798.

60TH FOOT.

To be Majors.

From Löwenstein's *Chasseurs.*

Majors Dörsner, Mösheim, and Crezielsky.

To be Captains.

From Löwenstein's *Chasseurs.*

Captains Louisenthal, Vendt, Hurdt, Montmarin, Gandt, Braun, Donngs, Emmenhausen, and Haberkorn.

From the York Rangers.

Captain John Galliffe.

To be Captain-Lieutenant.

From Löwenstein's *Chasseurs.*

Captain-Lieutenant Hellerick.

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To be Lieutenants.

From Löwenstein's *Chasseurs.*

Lieutenants Vendt, Erhardt, Sister, Franchassin, Bertner, Hoffman, Krien, Hausseger, Sugerfrom, Langsdorff, and Ellert.

To be Ensigns.

From Löwenstein's *Chasseurs.*

Ensigns Ammon, Kemmeter, Hugon, Kilener, Zerzen, and Henkleday.

One surgeon and four assistant surgeons, all from Löwenstein's *Chasseurs,* were also appointed at the same time.

In the *London Gazette* of May 29th, 1798, the *cadre* of officers was completed by the following appointments:—

Captain Francis Gomer from Löwenstein's *Chasseurs,* and 3 more subalterns.

This strong detachment of the Battalion, consisting of over double the number of officers and men composing the "Head Quarters" under de Rottenburg, remained at Martinique, and were not joined there by the latter until May 1799 or over a year after its

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being gazetted as a portion of the 60th Royal American Regiment.

Having thus recounted how the 5th Battalion was similarly and simultaneously formed from Foreigners drafted from two different regiments on either side of the Atlantic, I will now trace the career of the "Head Quarter Companies" until they joined those serving in the station for which they were specially raised by Act of Parliament, viz. "America," which term included both Continents as well as the islands of the New World.

The Irish Rebellion of '98 put a severe and unexpected strain on the resources of the British Empire, and it was no doubt under the extraordinary exigencies of this critical period of our history that the services of the nucleus of the 5th Battalion Royal Americans were utilized to aid in its suppression.

Whether these companies were detained at Cork on their way out to their own station in America, or whether they were especially ordered to Cork on service I have been unable to ascertain with any certainty; suffice it to say, that in the month of April 1798, within eight weeks of their first assembly in the Isle of Wight, they proceeded to Cork, and were shortly afterwards actively employed in suppressing the revolt. In the muster rolls of July and August several men are returned as "killed."

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In the Pay lists of December 1798 the four companies are shewn as at Waterford with a strength of 336, N.C.O.'s and men, or 14 less than in March, a proof that in the interval very few new men had been drafted into them.

The Muster Rolls of the succeeding months up to May 31st shew about the same number of men.

In April the four companies sailed for America, and in the Muster Roll of June 31st, 1799, *for the first time*, the 5th Battalion Royal Americans appears as an entire corps with all the officers and men entered in the same Pay lists.

The accompanying state shews approximately the constitution of the 5th Battalion upon its first muster at Fort Royal, Martinique.

—	Field Officers.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Drummers.	Privates.
Hompesch's *Chasseurs*, or Light Infantry	2	5	5	5	17	22	9	288
Löwenstein's *Chasseurs* ...	3	10	15	5	61	59	27	603
Royal Foreigners, &c. ...	1	1	2	–				
	6	16	22	10	78	81	36	891

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It is hardly necessary to add that the preceding state contains only Foreign names.

In the Pay list of May-June 1799 the following entry, which well exemplifies the situation of affairs, is made.

"N.B.—The four companies from Ireland are from this date incorporated with those found already formed in the West Indies, and that were already formed into ten companies, but a fresh formation took place."

The Battalion subsequently proceeded to Surinam, where it remained for some years.

In 1804, as already narrated, the Act* was passed enabling the Crown to employ Foreign Troops in England provided the number did not exceed 10,000 men, and in November 1805 the 5th Battalion sailed from the West Indies, landing in England in 1806.

In 1808 it was moved to Ireland and from thence to Spain.

This employment of the 5th Battalion 60th in the Peninsula has been the source of some discussion as to the interpretation of the Act of Parliament under which it was raised, and which cites that it was for service in America.†

* *Vide* Appendix, 44 Geo. III. c. 75.

† *Vide* Appendix, 38 Geo. III. c. 13.

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The object of the Act was to enable the Crown to raise another battalion of Foreigners, and as long as it was not quartered in the United Kingdom (which was contrary to law prior to 1804) there does not seem to have been any objection to its employment elsewhere out of America. Certain it is that it was so employed.

It, however, was not till 1813 that an Act was passed giving the Crown authority to employ the 60th Regt., "or any part thereof, in any Country or Place *out of* Great Britain."*

At the time this Act was passed the Fifth Battalion had been serving out of America for about seven years, and the 4th Battalion had been at the Cape of Good Hope for 2 years and returned to America.

The share the 5th Battalion took in the Peninsular War is fully described by Rigaud, who records its losses as 5 officers and 53 men killed and 73 officers and 454 men wounded.

Before embarking for the Peninsula it received the Baker rifle, and in June 1808 the commanding officer applied for wooden mallets to drive home the ramrods; and in June 1809 for "powder-flasks of the same description as those in the possession of the 95th Regiment."†

* *Vide* Appendix, 54 Geo. III. c. 12.

† Rigaud, pp. 24, 25.

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It may be remarked that although Rigaud always calls this Battalion the "60th Rifles," they were not thus designated officially, or even unofficially, and their own Commanding officer, writing after Busaco, styles them the "Americans,"* which, in fact, was undoubtedly their title, in addition to the numeral "60th;" the designation of "Rifles," or rather "Rifle Corps," not having been granted to the Regiment until 1824, some six years after this 5th Battalion had been disbanded.

In the diary of an officer during the Peninsular War the Battalion is constantly referred to as "the 5th Battn. of the 60th (German Riflemen)," and "the 5th Battn. of the 60th Germans."†

That the Battalion maintained its absolutely Foreign character during the Peninsular War is evidenced in many ways. Among others, its own Colonel, in writing to the Secretary at War in 1809, describes his Battalion as "a regiment of Foreigners acting in a foreign country."‡

Again, orders were directed to be read in German to the men.§

Foreign Recruits were obtained in divers ways, as can

* Rigaud, p. 139.
† *Rough Sketches*, pp. 41, 91, 168, 303.
‡ Rigaud, p. 69.
§ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

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be seen by referring to Rigaud amongst others, "200 Swiss Recruits from Oporto, who had served as *Voltigeurs* in the French Army,"* were taken on the strength.

The 5th Battalion was brought back to Ireland in 1814, and there remained until after the signing of the Treaty of Paris.

Upon peace being concluded, the 5th Battalion 60th was sent to Gibraltar, since the presence of Foreigners in the United Kingdom was no longer permissible, the Statutes authorising them to serve at home having expired.

Large reductions were made in the army about this time and in the following two years.

The strength of the 5th Battalion, on its return from the Peninsula, was 405, exclusive of N.C.O.'s, as shown by the last Pay list of the battalion in France in July 1814.

At Gibraltar, in May 1816, 333 men were drafted into it from the 8th Battalion on its disbandment, and 563 recruits were received from the Foreign Depôt during the same year.

The strength of the battalion at this time was fixed at 810 rank and file.

Upon its disbandment on 24th July 1818 there were 626 N.C.O.'s and men serving.

* Rigaud, p. 69.

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Of these 200 were discharged or invalided, and 426 were transferred to the 2nd Battalion at Quebec. It was this strong draft that Rigaud styles the "British"; but it is a very significant fact that only 11 English names occur out of the whole 426, or something less than 3 per cent., all the rest being unquestionably and unmistakably Foreign.*

It is upon this slender basis (viz. the drafting of the "effective" men† from the 5th to the 2nd Battalion) that the statement as to the alleged identity of the 5th and 2nd Battalions has been founded, and hence the idea has arisen that the present 1st Battalion (which was formerly numbered the 2nd) is the lineal descendant of the old 5th Battalion.

As a matter of fact, it is nothing of the sort. The 5th Battalion was as completely broken up and disbanded as any Corps could possibly be. It was a thing of the past.

This is amply proved by all the official records and documents relating thereto. Thus the Muster Rolls of the period are noted on the outside, "60th Foot, 5th Bn., 1816 to 1818. Disbanded," and the Regimental Records clearly state the same fact. No

* Pay Lists, 60th Foot, 2nd Battn., 1818.

† *Regimental Records.*

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"amalgamation" or "disintegration" took place, beyond the absolute disbandment of the 5th Battalion, as other Battalions of the 60th Royal Americans had been disbanded.

Thus the 5th Battalion 60th Royal Americans, which had done such good service in the Peninsula, ceased to exist. But although thus disbanded, its services were not forgotten, and the "honours" it had won were, some years later, according to the usual custom, granted to the Regiment and are perpetuated to this day by the names of the general actions in the Peninsula in which it took part being borne on the appointments of the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Shortly after this disbandment of the 5th Battalion the 2nd Battalion was gazetted to be equipped, trained, &c. as a Rifle Corps. It had previously existed for over 60 years, during which time it had served in America and the West Indies only (with the exception of the years 1806-9), clothed in red and armed with muskets.

And it is absurd to imagine that the mere fact of its receiving a draft from a disbanded Battalion of the same regiment could alter the character of this old Battalion or destroy its identity.

Even were it otherwise, the indisputable fact re-

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mains that the 60th Regiment was, in all its battalions from its formation a Corps of Foreigners especially raised for service in the Colonies, and which, to quote the words of the Chronicler of its own Regimental Records, "combined the characteristics of a Colonial Corps with a Foreign Legion."

This it remained until it was made "British" in 1824, close upon a quarter of a century after the formation of the Rifle Corps, now the Rifle Brigade.

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SECTION III.

THE CONVERSION OF THE 60TH (OR ROYAL AMERICAN) REGIMENT INTO A BRITISH RIFLE CORPS.

As has been stated, in the same year that the 5th Battalion was disbanded, the 2nd Battalion of the 60th was ordered to be converted into a Rifle Corps, and the following announcement appeared in the *London Gazette*:—

"War Office,
"4th August 1818.

"His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to direct that the 2nd Battalion of the 60th Foot shall be clothed, equipped, and trained as a Rifle Corps."

* *Gazettes*, 1818, Part 2.

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This conversion of the 2nd Battalion of the 60th Royal American Regiment into a rifle battalion, forms an important epoch in the career of the Regiment, inasmuch as the 1st Battalion was disbanded in the following year, and the 2nd re-numbered the 1st; hence the present 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps is identical with the old 2nd Battalion, raised in 1756 as a red regiment, and gazetted as a Battalion of riflemen in 1818.

The other battalion, the old 3rd (now styled the 2nd), was not made into a rifle battalion until 1824, at which time the name of the regiment was changed from the 60th Royal American Regiment of Foot to the 60th (the Duke of York's Own Rifle Corps).

In 1820, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining German recruits, permission was asked, and obtained, for the Regiment "to be recruited in the United Kingdom upon the same footing as any other Corps during peace."*

How great this difficulty must have been at this time, is evidenced by the Pay lists for 1820, which show the 1st Battalion with only 561 men in January, almost without exception Foreigners. This number

* *Records of the* 60*th Foot.*

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decreased steadily until, in December, only 383 men are on the roll.

On the occasion of the augmentation of the number of Line Regiments in 1824, the Duke of York wished that the 60th should be brought to England, and the Regimental Records state that, "as it was contrary to the law of England to admit Foreigners to serve in the United Kingdom," it was ordered to be recruited from British subjects, and remodelled "on the same footing as other regiments."

The Official Records proceed to describe how the necessary steps were taken to legalise the quartering of the battalion in the United Kingdom as follows:—

"As the Foreigners who principally composed the 1st Battalion could not, according to law, serve in Great Britain or Ireland . . . . In June 1824, the 1st Battalion embarked at Quebec for England, leaving all foreign officers and men there. . . . The officers were given the choice of going on half-pay, or of joining the 2nd Battalion in the West Indies."*

The Pay lists for 1824 show that the strength of the Battalion, a short time before embarkation, was about 520 N.C.O.'s and men. Of these, over 200 are

* *Records of the* 60*th Foot*, p. 724 *et seq.*

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shown as transferred "to the 2nd Battn.," or as "discharged in Canada"—the remainder were brought to England.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the 1st Battalion (formerly the 2nd), having thus become a British Corps,* was brought to England in 1824, after an almost uninterrupted service in America and the West Indies of seventy years.

The 2nd Battalion (formerly the 3rd) was similarly brought home in 1830.

About this time the name of the Regiment was changed to that of the 60th (or the King's Royal Rifle Corps).

Lastly, in 1881, when the numerals were taken from the other line battalions, the Regiment was ordered to discontinue its number, and to be styled simply "The King's Royal Rifle Corps."

The facts narrated in the foregoing brief sketch, coupled with a study of the Statutes having reference to the raising and augmentation of the 60th Royal American Regiment, show that the corps was essentially foreign and alien in its composition from its first formation in 1756, thus differing widely from the

* *Regimental Chronicle*, pp. 4 and 52.

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generality of Regiments; and also that it was prohibited from serving in the United Kingdom, except under certain conditions which applied to all Foreign Corps, during the first 68 years of its existence—in fact, for so long as it continued to be a corps of Foreigners.

Prior to 1804, upon the rare occasions when a battalion was brought to this side of the Atlantic, the Foreigners were eliminated, and merely a *cadre* of officers and N.C.O.'s was landed.

Upon its becoming a "British Corps," in 1824, these disabilities were removed, and, as we learn from the Official Records, it was "placed upon the same footing as other Regiments of the Line," and also granted the title of "Rifle Corps"; from which date its career as a British Rifle Regiment may be taken to commence.

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APPENDICES.

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APPENDIX I.

LIST OF THE OFFICERS WHO FORMED THE "EXPERIMENTAL CORPS OF RIFLEMEN," AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE RIFLE CORPS.

N.B.—The original spelling has been retained in all extracts from the Pay Lists and Muster Rolls.

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ROLL OF THE OFFICERS WHO FORMED THE EXPERIMENTAL

Name and Rank.	Corps.	How shewn in Regimental (1) On joining the Experimental Corps of Riflemen.
Colonel Coote Manningham	41st Foot	Aide de Camp to the King P.L Jany. to Sept. 1800
Lt. Col. The Honble. W. Stewart	67th Foot	Absent without leave P.L. Jany. to July 1800
Captain Hamlet Wade	25th Foot	Detachment; with the Rifle Corps P.L. April 1800
Captain Robert Travers	79th Foot	With the Rifle Corps P.L. March-November 1800
Captain Cornelius Cuyler	69th Foot	Rifle Detachment P.L. March 1800
Captain Thomas C. Gardner	2nd Bn. 1st F.	Attached to Rifle Corps P.L. March 1800
Captain Henry Shepherd	49th Foot	Attached to Riffle Corps P.L. April 1800
Captain Thomas Sidney Beckwith	71st Foot	Detached on command P.L. March-August 1800

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CORPS OF RIFLEMEN AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE RIFLE CORPS.

Pay List and Muster Roll. (2) On being gazetted to the Rifle Corps, or otherwise.	Date of Appointment to the Rifle Corps.	Date when signature first appears in the Rifle Corps Pay Lists.	Campaigns, Actions, &c., with the Corps.
Name struck off 9th Oct^{r}. P.L. Oct. 1800	25th August 1800	May 1801	
To Rifle Corps P.L. August 1800	25th August 1800	August 1801	Ferrol, Copenhagen, Albuera, Walcheren, Vittoria, Pyranees, Nive, Orthes
To Major in the Rifle Corps. Date unknown P.L. October 1800	26th August 1800	January 1801	Copenhagen, Corunna, Walcheren, Vittoria, Orthes, Toulouse
Name struck off P.L. December 1800	25th August 1800	July 1801	Ferrol, Egypt, Hanover 1805, Buenos Ayres, Maida, Roleia, Vimiera
To Rifle Corps August 25th PL. October 1800	26th August 1800	November 1800	
Removed to Rifle Corps P.L. December 1800	27th August 1800	March 1802	Ferrol, Egypt, Buenos Ayres
To Rifle Corps. Date unknown P.L. October 1800	28th August 1800	November 1800,	
Struck off from 29th August P.L. September 1800	29th August 1800	February 1801	Ferrol, Egypt, Copenhagen, Vimiera, Corunna, Busaco

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Name and Rank.	Corps.	How shewn in Regimental (1) On joining the Experimental Corps of Riflemen.
Captain Timothy Hamilton	27th Foot	On duty at Horesham P.L. March 1800
Captain Charles MacDonnell	72nd Foot	With the Riffle Corps P.L. April 1800
Lieut. Alexr. Duncan Stewart	67th Foot	Absent without leave P.L. Jan.-Oct. 1800
Lieut. Alexr. D. Cameron	21st F.	On a Rifle Detachment at Horsham Barracks. P.L. March-September 1800
Lieut. Blois Lynch	29th F.	Rifle Corps P.L. March 1800
Lieut. J. A. Grant	25th F.	Detachment; with the Rifle Corps. P.L. April 1800
Lieut. John Stuart	79th F.	With the Rifle Corps P.L. March-November 1800
Lieut. Peter O'Hare	69th F.	Rifle Detachment P.L. March 1800
Lieut. Thomas S. Edmonstoune	2nd Bn. 1st F.	Detached to Rifle Corps P.L. March 1800

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Pay List and Muster Roll. (2) On being gazetted to the Rifle Corps, or otherwise.	Date of Appointment to the Rifle Corps.	Date when signature first appears in the Rifle Corps Pay Lists.	Campaigns, Actions, &c., with the Corps.
Struck off from April 24th 1801 P.L. May 1801 Joined from Riffle Corps P.L. Dec. 1800	30th August 1800	April 1802	Ferrol, Egypt
To Rifle Corps P.L. Novr. 1800 Struck off P.L. October 1800	31st August 1800 1st September 1800	December 1800 Novr. 1800	
"Appointed to the Rifle Corps 25 August." P.L. Nov. 1800	25th August 1800	Dec. 1800	Copenhagen
To Lieut. and Adjt. in the Rifle Corps. P.L. Oct. 1800	26th August 1800	Novr. 1800	Ferrol, Copenhagen (killed)
Struck off P.L. December 1800	27th August 1800	July 1804 (College High Wycombe)	Ferrol, Egypt, Busaco, Casal Nova (died of wounds)
To Rifle Corps P.L. October 1800	28th August 1800	December 1800	Buenos Ayres, Fuentes d'Honor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz (killed)
Removed to Rifle Corps P.L. Dec. 1800	29th August 1800	January 1802	Ferrol

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Name and Rank.	Corps.	How shewn in Regimental (1) On joining the Experimental Corps of Riflemen.
Lieut. Richard Jones	55th Foot	Rifle detachment P.L. May 1800
Lieut. Robert Duncan	21st Foot	Sent to join the Rifle detachment P.L. May 1800
Lieut. Wills Gason	49th Foot	Attached to Riffle Corps P.L. April 1800
Lieut. Alexander Clarke	92nd Foot	Riffle Corps P.L. March 1800
Lieut. Neal Campbell	57th Foot	"Not joined since appointed" P.L. Sept. 1799—Sept. 1800
Ensign Thomas Landers	49th Foot	Attached to Riffle Corps P.L. April 1800
Ensign John Ross	72nd Foot	With the Riffle Corps P.L. April 1800
2nd Lieut. Edward Bedwell Law	21st Foot	On a Rifle detachment at Horsham barracks. P.L. March 1800
Ensign Henry Powell	2nd Bn 1st Foot	Attached to Rifle Corps P.L. March 1800
Ensign William Cotter	79th Foot	With the Rifle Corps P.L. March-Novr. 1800

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Pay List and Muster Roll. (2) On being gazetted to the Rifle Corps, or otherwise.	Date of Appointment to the Rifle Corps.	Date when signature first appears in the Rifle Corps Pay Lists.	Campaigns, Actions, &c., with the Corps.
Rejoined from the Rifle Detachment. P.L. Dec. 1800			
Struck off roll, 21st F. P.L. October 1800	30th August	August 1803	Ferrol, Egypt
Rejoins 49th F. P.L. June 1800	31st August	...	Ferrol, Egypt
To Rifle Corps, 1st Septr. P.L. Oct. 1800	1st September	December 1800	Ciudad Rodrigo, Salamanca
Promoted Lieut. 39th Regt. 5th June. P.L. June 1800			
Appointed to Riffle Corps Nov. 26. P.L. December 1800	2nd September 1800	November 1800	Barossa, Vittoria, Orthes, Toulouse Waterloo
Struck off rolls, 21st F. P.L. Oct. 1800	3rd Septr.	January 1801	
Promoted to Rifle Corps P.L. Dec. 1800	4th September 1800	June 1801	
Name struck off P.L. December 1800	5th Septr. 1800	January 1802	Ferrol, Egypt

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Rank and Name.	Corps.	How shewn in Regimental (1) On joining the Experimental Corps of Riflemen.
Ensign Alex$^{r.}$ Cameron	92nd Foot	On duty with Riffle Corps P.L. March 1800
Ensign Charles Douglas	29th Foot	Rifle Corps P.L. March 1800
Ensign John Hare	27th Foot	On duty at Horesham P.L. April 1800
Ensign L. H. Bennett	68th Foot	Absent without leave P.L. Oct. 1800
Paymaster James Innes		
Assistant Surgeon John Robb	55th	Detachment P.L. March 1800
Quartermaster Donald M'Kay		

*** The officers whose names are in italics were removed from the "Experimental Corps" prior to its being gazetted as the "Rifle Corps."

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Pay List and Muster Roll. (2) On being gazetted to the Rifle Corps, or otherwise.	Date of Appointment to the Rifle Corps.	Date when signature first appears in the Rifle Corps Pay Lists.	Campaigns, Actions, &c., with the Corps.
Promoted into the Rifle Corps, the date not known, but he is paid up as ensign in the Regiment to 24th Jan. 1801. (P.L. March 1801.)	6th Sept. 1800	May 1802	Ferrol, Egypt, Vimiera, Corunna, Busaco, Fuentes d'Honor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria
Promoted to Rifle Corps Sept. 7. P.L. Nov. 1800	7th Septr. 1800	December 1800	
Rejoined P.L. June 1800	8th Septr. 1800	December 1800	Peninsula, Cacabelos (died of wounds)
Name struck off P.L. Decr. 1800	30th October 1800	August 1800	N.B.—The list of campaigns, actions, &c., is *very incomplete*. With few exceptions, only those have been noted for which gold or silver medals were given. It is obvious that it would be impossible to ascertain the names of all the actions in which the various officers were engaged, without a study of the monthly pay lists over a period of some ten years.
	24th August 1800	December 1800	
	25th August 1800	November 1800	

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APPENDIX II.—(A.)

RETURN SHEWING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL CORPS OF RIFLEMEN ON ITS FIRST MUSTER AT HORSHAM IN THE SPRING OF 1800.

	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	How shewn in Monthly Regimental Pay Lists and Muster Rolls.		
2nd Bn. 1st Foot	3	1	32	Detached to Rifle Corps ...	2nd Bn. 1st Foot	March 1800
21st ,,	2	1	32	On Rifle Dett at Horsham Barracks	21st Foot	March 1800
23rd ,,	2	1	31	With the Riffle Corps	23rd Foot	April 1800
25th ,,	2	0	32	"Rifle Corps"	25th Foot	April 1800
27th ,,	2	1	33	Gone to Horesham as Rifleman	27th Foot	March 1800
29th ,,	2	1	32	Rifle Corps	29th Foot	March 1800
49th ,,	2	1	32	Rifle Corps	49th Foot	April 1800
55th ,,	2	1	31	Rifle Detachment	55th Foot	March 1800
69th ,,	2	1	32	Rifle Detachment	69th Foot	March 1800
71st ,,	2	1	32	"Detached on Command" ...	71st Foot	March 1800
72nd ,,	2	1	32	With the Riffle corps	72nd Foot	April 1800
79th ,,	2	1	32	With the riffle corps	79th Foot	March 1800
85th ,,	0	0	28	With the rifle corps	85th Foot	March 1800
92nd ,,	2	1	32	Riffle Man	92nd Foot	March 1800
	27	12	448			

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(B.)

RETURN SHEWING THE NUMBER OF N.C.O.'S AND MEN OF THE "EXPERIMENTAL CORPS OF RIFLEMEN" WHO REJOINED THEIR CORPS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE HORSE GUARDS ORDER OF OCTOBER 1ST, 1800.

	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	How shewn in Pay Lists and Muster Rolls.		
2nd Bn.					2nd Bn.	
1st Foot	3	1	23	Joined from Rifle Corps	1st Foot	Decr. 1800
21st ,,	1	0	27	joined from the rifle Detachment	21st F.	Novr. 1800
23rd ,,	2	1	27	From Riffle corps	23rd F.	Decr. 1800
25th ,,	2	0	26	joined from Rifle Corps	25th F.	Octr. 1800
27th ,,	2	1	24	joined from Rifle Corps	27th F.	Novr. 1800
29th ,,	1	0	18	"*rejoined*"	29th F.	Feb.-Mar. 1801
49th ,,	2	0	23	joined from rifle Corps	49th F.	Novr. 1800
55th ,,	1	1	22	from Rifle Detachment	55th F.	Decr. 1800
69th ,,	2	0	16	"*rejoined*"	69th F.	Jan. 1801
71st ,,	2	1	24	rejoined Dec. 24th...	71st F.	Dec. 1800
72nd ,,	2	1	24	joined from Rifle corps 26th inst.	72nd F.	Novr. 1800
79th ,,	2	1	28	joined from Rifle Corps	79th F.	Novr. 1800
85th ,,	0	0	13	fm. Rifle Corps	85th F.	Feb.-June 1801
92nd ,,	2	1	30	joined from the Riffle corps ...	92nd F.	Decr. 1800
	24	8	325			

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In the foregoing return every individual N.C.O. and man has been traced through the successive Pay-lists and Muster Rolls of his Regiment between the month when he was first detached to Horsham and the date when he rejoined his corps. In two instances, namely, in those of the 29th and 69th detachments there is no entry in the Regimental Pay Lists to the effect that the men have rejoined, beyond the fact that they are paid with their companies once again. In these cases I have written "*Rejoined.*"

Although no less than 357 N.C.O.'s and men are thus shewn as rejoining their respective corps out of the 482 originally detached to form the Experimental Corps, a certain number subsequently were transferred to the Rifle Corps, and appear in their Regimental rolls as "discharged and transferred to the Rifle Corps," or as "Volunteered to serve in the Rifle Corps."

It may be remarked that although 24 sergeants are shewn as rejoining their regiments, in several instances the original sergeants detached remained with the Rifle Corps, and corporals from amongst those of the Experimental Corps were promoted to take their places in their regiments.

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APPENDIX III.

On the Employment of Foreign Troops, and the Quartering of the same in the United Kingdom.

Since the question of the employment and quartering of Foreigners so nearly concerns much that has been written in this book, it may be of interest to some, if a few details on the subject be here given.

Foreigners were excluded from serving in Great Britain and Ireland by the proviso in the Act of Settlement (12 & 13 William III. c. 3) which declared that "no person born out of the three Kingdoms, except of English parentage, can hold any office or place of trust, either Civil or Military, from the Crown."

An Act passed in the 1st year of George I.'s reign (1714) confirmed and enforced this principle, and it remained in force until 1844, when it was repealed by 7 & 8 Victoria, c. 66, since which time an alien may be naturalised, and Foreigners so naturalized may be appointed to any command.

It is interesting to look back at the constant struggles which took place during the eighteenth century between

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the Crown and the Legislature, on the question of the Employment of Foreigners, and to note the various shifts and expedients which were adopted to evade the strict letter of the law.

Among others, the employment and quartering of troops in the Channel Islands, and even in the Isle of Wight was repeatedly attempted, and often successfully carried out by the Ministers.

The case of the Channel Islands involves a separate issue, as I shall shew later on, but that of the Isle of Wight has nothing to complicate it. The latter place seems to have been generally looked upon as a convenient spot for the quartering of Foreigners or such other troops.

Thus in 1688, when James II.'s army was disbanded, all the Irish Roman Catholics were sent there "to be held under the Guard of the Governor," until convoys could be provided to transport them to Ireland.*

The first occasion when the question of the employment of Foreign Troops seems to have arisen was in 1698, when William III. asked for his Dutch Guards to remain, but the Commons refused.

In 1756, some Foreign troops which had been employed to go on service to America were landed in England, and this proceeding was impeached as unconstitutional.

Since Foreign troops could not be billeted under the Mutiny Act, on this occasion a special Act (30 Geo. II. c. 2) was passed to render such billeting legal.

Clode, in his *Military Forces of the Crown*, states: "The first Act directly sanctioning the employment of Foreign

* Clode, vol. i. Appendix XXVII.

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soldiers as part of the Military Forces of the Crown was 29 Geo. II. c. 5. The troops raised under it were to be for special service in America."*

This Act was the one raising the first four battalions of the Royal American Regiment in 1756.

In 1775, when some Hessian troops were sent to Gibraltar and Malta, "both Houses severely canvassed this as an absolute infringement of the Bill of Rights."

The Ministers stood on the prerogative rights of the Crown to employ troops *out* of the Kingdom and in time of war, deeming the rebellion in America to be war; however, Lord North offered to bring in a Bill of Indemnity, an admission that foreign troops ought never to be employed in the British Dominions without the previous sanction of Parliament.†

In 1784 some Hessians, on their return from America, were landed in the Isle of Wight and quartered there; the reason given being that the River Weser was frozen, and that in consequence they could not land. In this instance a special Act (22 Geo. III. c. 26) similar to that of 1756 was passed to enable the Crown to billet them.

In 1793, it was considered expedient to provide for the enlistment of Royalists, who had been forced to emigrate from France. A special Act (34 Geo. III. c. 43) was in consequence passed to enable this to be done, and they

* *Parl. Hist.* 15, p. 699.
Clode, vol. ii., Appendix S.
† Clode, i., p. 90.
Parl. Hist. 1775, vol. x., pp. 798–831, 1,330.

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were, under its provisions, enabled to serve in "Europe, the *Channel Islands*, and any part of the late King of France's Dominions."

A curious proviso in this Act was one limiting the number permitted to be in England at one time to 5,000, and prohibiting their ever being marched into the country any greater distance than five miles from the sea coast.

In 1794, some Hessians were again landed in the Isle of Wight.

In this last instance, the King sent a message to the Houses of Parliament to the effect that: "A corps of Hessian Troops [having been] taken into the pay of Great Britain, to be employed on foreign service. . . . His Majesty had found it necessary . . . to order them to be disembarked and to be stationed on the Isle of Wight, at Portsmouth, and places adjacent."

This gave rise to most stormy debates, and strong protests were made by both Houses of Parliament.

The Ministry attempted to justify the proceeding on the grounds that it was *temporary*, and that the prerogative in time of war was not affected by the Bill of Rights.

A protest, however, was entered in the Journal of the House of Lords to the effect that "maintaining a foreign army on the establishment or in the territory of this Kingdom is in open defiance of the very Act of Parliament which settles the Crown on the present Royal Family . . . . . and the Act of the 29th Geo. II. c. 5 (sanctioning the employment of Foreigners in the 60th Royal American Regiment) is a proof that the legislature deemed a special Act necessary to enable the King to

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employ even a limited number of foreign officers in America." *

In 1797 the Act (38 Geo. III. c. 13) was passed to raise the 5th Battalion to the 60th Royal American Regiment, to consist of Foreigners, which was formed in the Isle of Wight, as already described.

The following year another Act (39 & 40 Geo. III. c. 40) empowered the Crown to take into its service 6,000 Dutch subjects. It was under this Act that the Dutch Regiment of Riflemen was brought over to the Isle of Wight in the spring of 1800.

The same year saw the second Act passed for the augmentation of the 60th Foot (39 Geo. III. c. 104). The sixth Battalion raised under this Act was formed partly in the Isle of Wight and partly in Holland, and was mostly composed of Germans.†

In 1804, as already described, an Act (44 Geo. III. c. 75) was passed permitting 10,000 Foreign troops to be quartered in England at one time, during the continuance of the War. This number was augmented in 1806 (46 Geo. III. c. 23) to 16,000 men.

In 1813 the seventh Battalion of the 60th Royal American Regiment was formed (under authority of the 39 Geo. III. c. 104) out of German prisoners of war in the Channel Islands.‡

The same year a new Act (54 Geo. III. c. 12) was

* *Annual Register*, vol. xxxvi. pp. 198–205; *Part. Hist.*, vol. xxx. pp. 1310–63, 1424–38; vol. xxxi. p. 1.

† *Regimental Chronicle*, p. 3.

‡ *Ibid.*, pp. 3, 25.

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passed to augment the 60th to ten battalions. The eighth Battalion was formed at Lisbon from "provincials."* It was this Act that authorised the employment of the Foreigners composing the 60th Regt. "in any country or place out of Great Britain."

Lastly, in 1815, the Acts of 44 & 46 Geo. III., limiting the number of Foreigners allowed to serve in the United Kingdom, were extended until the ratification of peace.

This Act further declared that in the future no Foreigner should hold a commission in any Regiment, Battalion, or Corps. A clause specially exempted the 60th Regt. from the operation of this Act. From this it will be seen that in 1815 the 60th was still looked upon as a Regiment of Foreigners.

The Depôt of the 60th (Royal American) Regiment, which was in America from its formation in 1756, was moved to the Isle of Wight in 1763, and there appears to have remained until 1802, when it moved to Lymington, as is shown by the Pay Lists. According to the Regimental Chronicle it remained in the Isle of Wight until 1829, so it is most probable that it was shifted back from Lymington some time after 1817, which is the date of the last document I have examined bearing on the subject.

It will thus be seen that the battalions of the 60th Regt. had good grounds for their repeated visits to the Isle of Wight. Besides the fact of several of them being formed

* *Regimental Chronicle.*

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at the depôt as described, now and again a battalion from America, which had been reduced to a *cadre*, was brought there to re-fill its ranks with Foreign recruits.

Thus the 4th Batt. landed at Lymington on its way to the Cape in 1805, and the same year the 3rd Batt. was landed in the Isle of Wight, and after a four weeks' stay moved to the Channel Islands.

But a more remarkable case than that of the Isle of Wight is that of the Channel Islands, which were repeatedly used as a temporary station for Foreign troops, whose presence in England would have caused a commotion.

Hessians, Russians, and other subsidized troops were stationed there at various times; and the *cadres*, and in some cases some of the battalions, of the 60th Royal Americans were also quartered at Jersey and Guernsey, at long intervals, for short periods.

Tupper in his history of Guernsey states: "Towards the close of the year 1799, two Divisions of Russian Troops which had been engaged in conjunction with the English under Sir Ralph Abercrombie and the Duke of York, in the ill-fated Expedition to Holland, undertaken by the British and Russian Governments, for the re-establishment of the Prince of Orange, were landed in Guernsey and Jersey; the introduction of foreign troops into England being prohibited by the Bill of Rights."*

It has been stated that in Guernsey Acts of Parliament are not binding unless they have been registered, and that

* *History of Guernsey and its Bailiwick.* Ferdinand Brock Tupper. 1854.

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no order in Council transmitting the Bill of Rights, 12 and 13 William III., appears to have been registered. Hence, Foreign Troops were not prohibited from being quartered there. Whether this is the case or not, it is a curious fact that they *were* quartered there.

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APPENDIX IV.

STATUTES HAVING RELATION TO THE RAISING AND AUGMENTATION OF THE 60TH ROYAL AMERICAN REGIMENT AND TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGNERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. Taken from "A Chronological Table and Index to the Statutes," 10th edition: London 1866; and from the "Statutes at Large."

29 GEO. II. c. 5 (Raising of the Royal American Regiment 1756).

An Act to enable His Majesty to grant commissions to a certain number of Foreign Protestants . . . to act and rank as officers . . . in America only, under certain restrictions.

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2 GEO. III. c. 2 (Naturalization of the Royal American Regiment, 1761).

An Act for naturalizing such Foreign Protestants as have served . . . as officers or soldiers in His Majesty's Royal American Regiment . . . in America.

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13 GEO. III. c. 25 (Explanatory of the two preceding Acts of 1756 and 1761. 1772).

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38 GEO. III. c. 13. Augmentation of the 60th Foot. 30th December 1797.

Whereas it is judged expedient for the better Defence of His Majesty's Colonies in *America* to augment His Majesty's Sixtieth Regiment of Infantry . . . by the Addition of a Fifth Battalion . . . and to inlist as soldiers to serve in the said Fifth Battalion in America, any of the Foreign Troops now in His Majesty's pay; or other Foreigners . . .

And whereas such Foreigners cannot be so well disciplined without the Assistance of some officers who are acquainted with their Manners and Language . . .

(Sanctions the employment of Foreign officers.)

---

39 GEO. III. c. 104. Augmentation of the 60th Foot. 12th July 1799.

Sanctions the addition of a 6th and 7th Battalion under similar conditions to preceding Act.

---

44 GEO. III. c. 75. Enlistment of Foreigners. 14th July 1804.

An Act for enabling Subjects of Foreign States to enlist as Soldiers in His Majesty's Service . . . and to indemnify all persons who may have advised His Majesty

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to enlist any such Soldiers . . . to remain in force *during the continuance of the present war.*

Limits the number of Foreigners permitted to serve in the United Kingdom to 10,000 men.

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46 Geo. III. c. 23. Enlistment of Foreigners. 22nd March 1806.

Whereas a large Number of Foreigners have been enlisted as Soldiers into His Majesty's Service in Foreign Parts, and it has become necessary and found expedient to land such Foreign Soldiers in this Kingdom, whereby the whole Number of Foreigners now serving in this Kingdom amount to more than the number of Ten Thousand Men allowed, &c. . . . and every Person who may have advised His Majesty . . . to land such Soldiers in this Kingdom . . . is hereby fully indemnified."

(Increases the number permitted to serve in the United Kingdom to 16,000 men.)

---

54 Geo. III. c. 12. Augmentation of the 60th Foot. 6th December 1813.

Sanctions the addition of an 8th, 9th, and 10th Battalion ". . . and to enlist as Soldiers to serve in such Battalions any Foreigners . . . and to employ such Regiment or any part thereof, in any Country or Place out of *Great Britain.*"

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55 Geo. III. c. 85. 14th June 1815.

An Act to amend and continue for One year and until Twelve Months after the Termination of the present War . . . the 44th and 46th Geo. III. (already cited).

Clause I. extends time.

Clause II. And be it further enacted, that from and after the passing of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any Person born out of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland . . . to hold a Commission in any Regiment Battalion or Corps in His Majesty's Service . . .

Clause III. Provided always and be it further enacted: That nothing in this Act shall extend or be construed to extend to His Majesty's Sixtieth Regiment of Foot or to the holding of Commissions in the said Regiment.

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